



## Village focus

A look at the latest news from the Bloxwich area

Page 22



## Memory Lane

Yesteryear in a town called 'Humphshire'

Page 24



## What's on

Meera to make much ado about Shakespeare

Page 28



## Killer of teenage mother is jailed

A YOUNG father who suffocated his teenage girlfriend to death before hiding her body under the floorboards at his home was jailed for life after being found guilty of murder.

Stephen Devesey, 21, killed 18-year-old former Walsall College student Nicole Cartmell, of West Bromwich, just weeks after she gave birth to a baby boy last year.

He murdered Nicole, known as Nicky to friends, by suffocating her with his arm. Devesey tried to cover up the murder by prising up floorboards at his home and dropping the teenager's body 7ft onto a cellar floor.

### Tears

On Monday a jury of five men and seven women found Devesey guilty of murder by unanimous verdict at Birmingham Crown Court. He was given the minimum 17-year sentence. As the verdict was read out Nicole's mother Julie Cartmell, who gave evidence during the trial, broke down in tears.

Nicole gave birth to a baby boy in January last year but was reported missing by her friends on Valentine's Day.

Her badly decomposed body was discovered in a house where Devesey lived in Whateley Road, Handsworth, on March 2.

## Train link is set for major boost

A £30 MILLION cash injection to speed up trains between Walsall and Rugeley was this week announced by the Government, as part of the biggest investment in the rail network in more than a century.

The electrification of the Chase line is among £9 billion worth of transport schemes which have won backing.

Ministers say it will improve connections with the north-west, with the Birmingham to Liverpool train running via Walsall.

# HOLIDAY ENDS IN POISON TRAGEDY

## Zumba girls help children's hospital

MORE than 100 Zumba fans strutted their stuff for a marathon fitness session in Aldridge to raise money for Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Fitness instructor Lyndsey Moore, aged 29, from Aldridge, organised the popular fundraising event at the Masonic Hall, in The Green.

The fundraisers danced for five hours - from 7pm until midnight - helping to raise more than £1,000 for the city centre hospital.

Lyndsey said: "I just think it is a really worthwhile charity."

"It was a great turn-out and it was both young and old."

"There was entertainment from a DJ, who was great, and there was a buffet."

### Party

She added: "There were four instructors with me that helped us party on throughout the night."

"I would just like to thank to all the instructors and all the people who helped as well as all the people who came along."

Zumba is a Colombian dance fitness programme created by dancer and choreographer Alberto "Beto" Perez during the 1990s.

In recent years Zumba has become massively popular with fitness fans across the globe.



Ready to Zumba - dance fitness instructors Lyndsey Moore, Bev Carter, Bekki Parsons, Carrie Beckett and Ali Shaw led a mass charity Zumbathon, which was held in aid of Birmingham Children's Hospital, at the Masonic Hall at The Green, Aldridge

## A HOLIDAYMAKER from Walsall died after mistakenly drinking a toxic liquid which was put into a water bottle, an inquest heard.

Gloria Smith swallowed the cleaning liquid believing it to be water after it was accidentally left on the table of her hotel room in Cyprus.

The hearing at Walsall Coroner's Court was told the cleaner had put some stain remover in the container rather than carry a big bottle after seeking the advice of a supervisor.

The 60-year-old retired hairdresser from Walsall picked up the container thinking it was just normal water.

She collapsed in the bathroom shouting "it's poison."

Mrs Smith of Basalt Close, Reedswood, was on the fourth day of a two-week holiday with partner of two years Raymond Francis when the tragedy unfolded in September 2010.

She was rushed to hospital where she died after suffering a build up of fluid in the lungs and brains.

### Negligent

Despite the requests of Black Country Coroner Robin Balmain further pathology tests have not been made available to experts in the UK.

At Walsall Manor Hospital on Monday, Mr Francis said he put the liquid to his lips after Mrs Smith collapsed to the floor and could immediately feel burning.

He sought help straight away and insisted the bottle was the same appearance as a normal small water container.

A statement from the cleaner to police, which was read out at the inquest, said the fluid had been transferred into a water bottle.

She was contacted by the hotel manager after

### Report by Craig Hughes



Poisoned - Gloria Smith

widowed Mrs Smith was rushed to hospital and she insisted it had not been intentionally left on the table.

She was arrested but the outcome of the investigation has not been released to the coroner or family members.

Black Country Coroner Robin Balmain recorded a narrative verdict saying the fluid was the cause of Mrs Smith's death.

He criticised the "grossly negligent practice" of the hotel.

## Rescuers haul men from car wreckage

A DRIVER and two passengers escaped with their lives on Tuesday after their car careered off the road in Walsall and smashed through garden railings before bursting into flames.

Passers-by pulled all three men from the car which landed on its side before it caught fire.

The Volkswagen Golf veered off Birmingham Road near The Bell pub at the junction of Bell Road at 1.10am and smashed through the metal garden fence fronting the home of Margaret and Selwyn Holden.

### Unconscious

Firefighters found the three casualties unconscious at the scene and administered first aid until paramedics arrived.

Crew commander John Haynes, based at Walsall, said: "They are very lucky to be alive because the car burst into flames shortly after impact."

Two of the occupants, one in his 20s and another in his 30s, were taken to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham with head injuries.

The third man, in his 20s, was taken to Walsall Manor Hospital.

Two men have been arrested on suspicion of dangerous driving.

## Woman faces murder charge

A WOMAN has appeared in court charged with the murder of 42-year-old Wendy Thorpe, whose body was found in the back garden of the home they shared in Walsall. She had died from head injuries.

Tracy Ashfield, 43, was arrested after police were called to their semi-detached house in Hunter Crescent, Leamore, in the early hours of Sunday.

She appeared at Walsall Magistrates' Court on Tuesday where the case was committed to Wolverhampton Crown Court for a hearing today (Thursday).

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## NEWS

## CONTENTS

Peter Rhodes	4
Letters	12
Clubs	14
Memory Lane	24
TV Listings	29-31
Puzzles	32
Property	33-41
Motoring	42-45
Classified	46-50
Sport	51-52

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# Hospital in £1.3m overspend

**HEALTH chiefs have overspent by more than £1.3 million this year after increased patients and staff costs at Walsall Manor, new figures have revealed.**

The hospital, which is looking to save £11.4 million, has spent more than £400,000 than planned on nurses and the same again on medical staff.

## Medicine

The financial situation to the end of May has been described as "unsustainable" by health chiefs who have already started to take action - including tighter controls on using temporary workers.

The authority had expected to make savings of £1.979 million by this stage of the financial year. But so far the authority has achieved £630,000

due to the overspend and failure to keep on track with the money-saving cost improvement programme.

One of the reasons for extra demand for beds and additional cover has been attributed to the overnight closure of the A&E department at Stafford Hospital.

A report from Shahana Khan, director of finance and performance, explained: "The overspend in medical staffing is mainly in medicine, A&E and anaesthetics in covering vacancies, shift patterns and leave, totalling £436,000 overspend."

"Bank, locum and agency usage has continued at high levels during May, for a blend of reasons including additional capacity being open."

The report continued: "Expenditure on

nursing continues to exceed budgeted levels, with an overspend of £425,000 year to date."

Bosses say the recruitment of staff ahead of this winter will help cut agency costs after the bill topped £500,000 in May.

Extra permanent staff are being recruited to reduce the need for agency workers, with more than 25 new positions being created ahead of the busy winter period.

## Policy

It comes as health officials are also implementing a new sickness absence policy after there was an unseasonal rise in the number of workers off ill.

The trust which has 3,366 full-time employees had a rate of 4.3 per cent in May where the overall target is 3.13 a month.

# Council visits over bin contamination

**RESIDENTS who fail to bin their rubbish correctly are going to be door-knocked because hundreds of tons of contaminated recycling waste are being sent to landfill.**

Walsall Council bosses say food waste and general rubbish has been persistently clogging up recycling bins in the borough and extra disposal costs are amounting to thousands of pounds.

A £27,720 communications campaign has been launched and areas are being targeted to educate people about what they should be putting into recycling bins.

Areas where the problem is considered rife include parts of Bentley, Darlaston, Willenhall, Bloxwich, Pleck and Blakenall.

It is costing the council about £100 per ton to

## MP delighted by the pupils' enthusiasm

A WALSALL MP who visited two schools in Darlaston and Moxley last week described her experience as a pleasure.

Valerie Vaz, Labour MP for Walsall South, met pupils and staff from Moorcroft Wood Primary School in Moxley and also opened the sports day at Rough Hay Primary School in Darlaston. Ms Vaz said: "Pupils were inspired and enthusiastic about learning."

At Moorcroft Wood, Ms Vaz was given a copy of the Little Book of Woodland Wonders, put together by pupils with the school's writer-in-residence Steve Smallman.

by Lisa O'Brien

dispose of the contaminated rubbish.

Leaflets are to be distributed to properties, while a team of four staff will be sent to knock on doors at 2,500 homes.

A total of 12,600 homes will be involved in the campaign.

Mark Holden, head of Streetpride at Walsall Council, said: "We are experiencing a serious problem with contamination in the kerbside recycling."

"The contamination levels are high enough to impact on the recycling rate and the council's income."

"In May and June we rejected approximately 140 tons of materials, in some cases we are having to reject whole loads."

## Environment

"As this campaign progresses we will monitor the quality of the loads as they are delivered to the Fryers Road transfer station to see if the contamination is reducing."

Councillor Tom Ansell, transport and environment chief, said: "If we all work together we can put an end to contamination in kerbside recycling and create a cleaner, healthier environment for us all."

## Art goes on show at library



**Jean Gurney, secretary of Darlaston Amateur Artists group, with some of the paintings**

THE TALENTS of amateur artists are on display after a new exhibition opened at Darlaston Library.

Local artists have contributed to the exhibition at the library, including members of Darlaston Amateur Artists group, which organised the event.

Watercolours, pastels and acrylics have been used to create pictures of animals, portraits and scenic views.

Jean Gurney, secretary of the group and

event organiser, said that more than 20 artists had contributed to the exhibition.

The 82-year-old, of Sandwell Avenue, Darlaston, said: "The group has had an exhibition at the library for 13 or 14 years - it's an annual event."

"There are about 60 pieces of artwork in the exhibition and the feedback has been very good so far."

The exhibition is free and the artwork will be on display at the library until July 27.

## Dogs taken away from the owner

A WOMAN who left her two emaciated dogs in distress has had them removed from her possession by the RSPCA.

Kerry Brown, of Follyhouse Lane, Walsall, was convicted by magistrates in her absence last week.

Brown was found guilty of causing her two dogs unnecessary suffering in March this year and failing to ensure the welfare of the animals.

The court had heard how a bull terrier-type dog and a German shepherd were found to be very emaciated in a property in Richmond Hill, Oldbury, and the floor was covered in urine and dog faeces.

## Kennels

At Sandwell Magistrates Court, Mrs Gaynor Sutton, prosecuting on behalf of the RSPCA, said the organisation wanted to take possession of the animals so that they could be re-homed. She said they had been in the RSPCA kennels since before Miss Brown's conviction.

The RSPCA had been waiting for Miss Brown to contact them. The 22-year-old failed to attend court.

## Concern at business failure rate

A REPORT will be drawn up following an investigation into the number of new businesses failing in Walsall.

A council investigation was launched after it emerged Walsall needs to create 2,000 more businesses to reach the national average.

While more than nine in 10 enterprises survive for at least a year in Walsall, this falls to less than two thirds after three years and only half for four years.

Only four out of 10 new businesses in Walsall are likely to still be trading after five years.

## Football fun for children

YOUNG footballers can beat summer holiday boredom at soccer sessions in Walsall.

Three day classes are being run at the Bank's Stadium outdoor pitch by the Walsall FC Community Programme. They will run from Tuesday, July 24, and throughout August with sessions also at St John's Primary, Walsall Wood.

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## Warning to motorists of 'severe' hold-ups

DRIVERS are being warned of severe delays on a busy route near Walsall town centre as part of the road will close for three weeks.

The busy Lichfield Street will become one-way between the Arboretum junction and the Mellish Island.

It means drivers will be able to travel in a southerly direction along Lichfield Street towards Walsall town centre.

But motorists heading towards the Mellish Island and Butts Street away from the town centre will face a lengthy diversion route.

### Peak

The one-way system will come into force on Sunday and is part of an ongoing water mains scheme being carried out by South Staffordshire Water.

Graham Wallis, from Walsall Council's traffic management team, said: "While works have been scheduled to occur during the school summer holiday period, severe delays to through traffic are expected, particularly at peak travel times."

Traffic will still be able to flow in the direction of the Arboretum Junction although highways bosses have warned a lane closure may be necessary so work can be carried out safely.

## Officers praised for drug blitz

TWO police officers from Walsall have earned top awards for their work on a drugs operation which saw 19 drug dealers sentenced.

Inspector Neil Creed and Detective Sergeant Steve Davis were given the Chief Constable Awards at a West Midlands Police ceremony.

The pair were praised for their hard work on Operation Eliminate, which targeted high-level drug dealers in Walsall, and led to the conviction and imprisonment of 19 dealers.

### Dedication

Chief Superintendent Kevin Bullas said: "The hard work and dedication displayed by these two officers was instrumental in improving the quality of lives of our communities."

"The operation also saw officers recover £21,700 of sterling and £3,000 worth of dollars, as well as quantities of heroin, crack cocaine, steroids, cannabis and a number of weapons."

# Sewage flood misery four times in one week



The flooded driveway

A COUPLE have suffered flood misery four times in just a week as their driveway was submerged with sewage water after heavy downpours.

Shirley Scott, aged 44, and her husband Darren, 43, say they have had to put up with foul smells and unhygienic conditions because of a sewage drain near their property. The drain first overflowed and sewage water crept up their drive in Pelsall Road three weeks ago.

Catering supervisor Mrs Scott said: "The main sewer drain in the centre of the road overflowed and the water came onto our driveway."

"The drain must be getting blocked. The first

time it happened we had heavy rain," she added.

"This has happened four times now in about a week. The water must have been eight or nine inches deep. The smell is disgusting," she said.

The pair, who have lived in their home for eight years, said complaints had been made to Severn Trent Water but nothing had been resolved.

Mrs Scott said: "The water covered the vents at the bottom of the house."

"It's lifted the tiles up in the utility room as well," she added. "Every time it happens, it's like we're sitting on a barge."

She said the couple have been forced to contact

their insurance company to survey the extent of the damage.

Mrs Scott added: "We have been told we may have to vacate the property while they do the under footing work."

"Excess for our insurance is having to be paid, putting our premiums up for the next year."

"We have never claimed on our insurance and always sorted problems ourselves relating to this drainage problem but this is no longer going to happen."

No-one at Severn Trent Water was available for comment.

# New £4.5m health centre and library nearly ready

A MULTI-MILLION pound health centre and library being built in a Walsall village is just weeks away from being finished and will open in two phases, council bosses say.

Work to build the £4.5 million new library and health centre in Pelsall is "on track" Walsall Council said this week. The new development, has been nearly five years in the making. It will boast GP practices, a children's centre and a library on the former library site in Pelsall High Street.

## Pleck crossing plea is raised in Parliament

THE GOVERNMENT has been asked to look into the safety of a pedestrian crossing in Walsall by one of the borough's MPs.

Residents and campaigners are campaigning to have the crossing in Darlaston Road, Pleck, to be upgraded to a signal-controlled crossing.

But Walsall Council chiefs have said they believe that better markings and signs may be a better solution.

Walsall South MP Valerie Vaz has now raised the issue in the Commons.

Shes asked Commons Leader Sir George Young for an urgent debate on accessing funds for an upgrade.

### Progress

He said he would look into whether there is any way the Government could help "make progress" on having the crossing upgraded.

Ms Vaz said the council continued to refuse requests for the crossing, near Hough Road, to be converted into a signal-controlled crossing.

She added: "This is despite five accidents having taken place on the crossing in five months from September 2011 to February 2012."

"It is only a matter of time before someone is seriously injured or killed because the crossing is simply not suitable to protect pedestrians from the speed and volume of traffic using the road."

But borough roads chief Councillor Tom Ansell said: "Recent studies show that crossings controlled by traffic lights which are being asked for may not actually be as safe as a zebra crossing."

"While we will closely monitor the situation, there are other demands for road safety measures across the borough, and we must treat all requests fairly with the resources we have."

The buildings will open in two phases, seven days apart.

Hoardings have been put up around the building but the progress being made on site can clearly be seen. Viewing platforms have been created around the site so villagers can keep up to date with the work.

Village councillors said excitement was building in the run-to the launch of what will officially be called Pelsall Village Centre.

Garry Perry, representative for the Pelsall ward, said: "On the whole everybody is really looking forward to it opening."

"It will come in two phases. The health centre will move first and then the existing building can be demolished for car parking to be created. The library and children's centre will then move later."

"It all looks great so far. There is still lots of hoarding up around it but you can see that it is coming along well. A lot of people are asking when it will open and there is a lot of excitement around it. It is a massive investment, the likes of which may not be seen in one go in a village like Pelsall for some time," he added.

Work is being carried out by Birmingham-based Construction Firm ISG plc and the new complex will replace the village's medical centre.

## Police stepping up patrols due to yobs

POLICE have stepped up patrols and are cracking down on anti-social behaviour by yobs in Blakenall.

The action follows reports of youths throwing stones at cars, using mini motorbikes on wasteland at Goscote Lane, and also being abusive to residents in Roebuck Road, Leamore.

## Chuffed as Railway reopens



Landlord Tom Osborne reopens The Railway Inn, in Victoria Road, Pelsall, to the delight of regulars

A POPULAR village pub in Walsall has been brought back to life months after closing its doors suddenly - after hundreds of punters joined forces via a social network site in support of their local.

And the landlord says he could not have reopened had it not been for the support of the community, as they rallied around their inn after the sudden shock of its closure.

The Railway Inn, in Pelsall, had been bustling as usual on a Sunday night but was closed without warning the following day, on May 28 of this year.

Regulars had no prior knowledge that it would happen and only saw the venue was shut when they popped by for a pint.

### Party

Since the Enterprise Inns pub shut, more than 500 people took to Facebook demanding that their favourite pub in the village reopened.

Landlord Thomas Osborne, who lives above the pub, held a reopening party on Saturday.

He said he would never have reopened the pub had it not been for the support of the local community, who showed how much they loved their local.

The 45-year-old said: "I had a problem with the rent and the brewery, but now I have negotiated a good deal."

He added: "I don't know if I would have reopened if I hadn't got so much support."

## NEWS in brief

### Family meeting over memorial

A MEMORIAL garden for a Walsall soldier who died in Afghanistan will take a step forward this month after borough council bosses meet his family.

Leisure boss Councillor Anthony Harris will meet Jane Whitehouse, mother of Corporal Jonathan Horne, to discuss the long-awaited feature.

Cpl Horne's family suggested the idea of a quiet haven at Walsall Arboretum.

### Punch and Judy shows at park

A FUN day will be held at a Walsall park on Wednesday July 25.

Holland Park, in Chester Road North, Brownhills, will host the event from 10.30am to 4pm.

Children's rides, inflatables, charity stalls and a Punch and Judy show will be among the attractions on offer.

Entry to the park is free but charges and age restrictions will apply on some attractions.

### Lane closure is due at weekend

A LANE closure will be in place on Bloxwich High Street outside the Asda supermarket for water main repair work this weekend.

Work is being carried out by South Staffordshire Water and is starting on Friday.

The work is due to be completed by Monday.

### Speed camera is target for attack

A SPEED camera was set alight on a busy Walsall road during the early hours of Thursday, July 12. Firefighters say it appears arsonists poured accelerant into the casing before setting it on fire. They were called to Lichfield Road in Rushall, Walsall at 3.20am.

### Chance to speak on crime issues

RESIDENTS in Leamore have the chance to meet police officers face-to-face at a surgery on today (Thursday) at Phoenix Primary School, in Odell Road, at 6pm.

### Open mic night

YOUNG singers and musicians can perform at an open mic night at Bookmark Bloxwich tonight (Friday) at 7.30pm.



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## NEWS

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



A READER asks: "What's happened to that long hot summer you promised us?" The answer, according to the latest scientific data and the seaweed hanging outside Chateau Rhodes, is that there will indeed be a long hot summer. But not until December.

□□□□□□□□

HOW to deal with telephone cold callers. Among a flurry of readers' suggestions, I love this one: "When they ring, just tell them you are a relative of the person they want and you live in a big house and they are at the bottom of the garden. Every so often, just shout that they are on their way." This reader says his personal record for keeping them hanging on the phone is eight minutes.

□□□□□□□□

THE great thing about science is that discoveries which cost billions very quickly become affordable to Joe Public. I am pleased to report that Higgs boson particles are now a quid each at Poundland. Don't be embarrassed to ask.

□□□□□□□□

BY NOW, we are used to Easter eggs appearing in the shops before Christmas and Christmas cards appearing before Easter. Even so, a reader admits she was surprised to see her local W H Smiths running a "Back to school" promotion before the schools have even broken up.

□□□□□□□□

IF YOU have not yet seen Tom Symonds's account of being mugged at knife-point, it's at [www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-18739151](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-18739151)

Symonds is the BBC Home Affairs correspondent. His iPhone was snatched and in the minutes that followed, police electronically traced the device and chased and caught the thug. It is a fascinating display of how brilliant British bobbies can be, given the tools and the opportunity. The incident also highlights a glaring weakness in the system. This knife-wielding thug robbed Symonds just 14 days after being released early from prison for an identical offence. Prison works. But only as long as we keep them in prison.

□□□□□□□□

A READER describes the bizarre experience of watching Twenty-Two (BBC2), the excellent comedy on the London Olympics bureaucracy, followed by Newsnight. The first was satire, the second real life. Yet the language was the same. Going forward, bilaterally, that is.

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NO SURPRISES in the report showing that if you have a stroke at the weekend, your chances of survival are lower because specialist NHS staff will be off duty. But it comes as a shock to discover that the same Monday-to-Friday syndrome infests the rest of the staff. A reader reports a recent stay in hospital when a cleaner was told off by her supervisor, in front of patients, and made to re-clean the ward. My reader reports: "We thought it was a little harsh but understandable and commendable, in view of MRSA. We were very puzzled, however, when the ward was not cleaned at all on Saturday or Sunday. Does this mean there are no germs at the weekend?"

□□□□□□□□

STRANGE names for paint colours. A friend is redecorating her living room in Elephant's Breath.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

## New community centre could help youngsters

THE long-awaited replacement of a Walsall community centre has taken a major step forward with plans were submitted for the scheme.

Bosses at Green Rivers Community Centre in Blakenall said they would be able to cater for around double the number of youngsters they currently do if the plans get the go-ahead.

The centre, which was involved in a two-year wrangle with Walsall Council to stay at its home off Green Rock Lane, is in line for a replacement costing £170,000.

Caroline Crolley, project worker and trustee at Green Rivers, said the planning application was a big step forward.

"We've been in talks for months with the council and we're now

looking for planning permission for a replacement building," she said. "If we do get permission, we would hope to have the replacement building in place in September."

The new building would allow Green Rivers to increase activities and for around 40 youngsters.

Currently, the state of the 35-year-old building means some

parts of it are off limits, meaning there is a limit on how many teenagers can go.

A report submitted to the local authority said: "The buildings are in very poor condition and dilapidated and are at the end of life."

The community association was granted a 21-year lease last year after a dispute with the council.

## Join the Colts club

VOLUNTEERS are being asked to help with a £50,000 scheme to unravel the history and raise the public profile of one of the most well-known and curious relics from Walsall's past.

Members of Walsall Civic Society are leading the project to bring the Bayard's Colts back into use.

The colts are a collection of 17 wooden clubs which were carried behind the mayor in ceremonial processions and civic occasions.

Civic Society members are now appealing for actors, singers, dancers, musicians and costume makers to get in touch with a view to staging a street theatre play.

## Website

A new website has also been set up and can be visited at: [www.bayardscolts.org.uk](http://www.bayardscolts.org.uk) and that contains the latest news about the project.

The project, which launched in April, intends to preserve the tradition of using the colts in ceremonial processions in the town throughout the year, raise awareness in the area of the colts and increase the number of people visiting them every year.

Money is being spent to investigate the colts and present the information in a way people will be able to access easily.

A new set of colts could also be created by a local sculptor with input from local people.

## Thousands to be hit by new 'bedroom tax'

MORE THAN 3,000 families in Walsall look set to be affected by the Government's controversial "bedroom tax" plans.

Welfare reforms will see housing benefit cut for people who have spare bedrooms at housing association-run homes. Those under 62 who have one spare bedroom will see their benefits drop by 14 per cent, while those with two spare bedrooms face a 25 per cent reduction. Around 3,300 families who have homes with Walsall's biggest social landlord, Walsall Housing Group, are likely to be hit.

Figures for other housing associations in the borough are not yet available.

Around 1,100 WHG tenants will be affected by the 25 per cent reduction and the remaining 2,200 will see their benefits drop 14 per cent.

## Minaret bid for mosque

FRESH plans to push ahead with the transformation of a mosque in Walsall have been submitted to the council.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Association won an appeal in 2010 to convert a disused warehouse in Vicarage Place into a mosque, despite hundreds of objections and the plans being thrown out by Walsall Council in December 2009.

Permission is now being sought to demolish part of the building and make alterations to the inside and outside, including the addition of a dome and minaret.

Hundreds of people descended on the town hall in Walsall to oppose proposals for the mosque in 2009, and four petitions were submitted against the application bearing 848 names.

There were concerns about the location of the site and traffic congestion fears, as well as objections from other Muslims disagreeing with the Ahmadiyya interpretation of Islam.

But the appeal was lodged soon after the refusal.

by Catherine Dalton

The figures came to light thanks to a question tabled by Democratic Labour Party member Councillor Pete Smith at last week's full council meeting.

Regeneration chief Councillor Adrian Andrew outlined the predicted figures.

He said: "We recognise the potential impact of this policy. It will be in October when we can break down ward by ward to see the impact on these 3,300 households."

## Grandparents

He said the 14 per cent reduction worked out at an average of £12 a week and 25 per cent was around £21 a week. It was not taken into account whether tenants had their children over to stay at weekends or some days a week, while it also did not mitigate for grandparents who look after grandchildren on a regular basis.

"With our housing association partners we have identified those likely to be most affected by this and will provide them with the help that they need," he said.

## Martine hosts

FASHION and shopping event Style Birmingham Live is to return to the city this summer at The Mailbox on September 29.

Singer and actress Martine McCutcheon is this year's host. Tickets are £10 which includes a seat at the show and a goody bag. See [www.stylebirmingham.com](http://www.stylebirmingham.com)

## Key success for school choir



Walsall Wood Primary School's choir are the best in the borough at key stage 2. A SCHOOL choir has hit a high note after being named best performers in a competition.

Walsall Wood Primary competed in the key stage 2 contest at the Forest Arts Centre in Hawbush Road.

The choir went up against other primaries in Walsall where they sang their own versions of Don't Stop Believing and Your Song.

As part of their prize for winning the pupils at the school in Brownhills Road

received a trophy and certificate. Teachers at the school have praised the youngsters for their hard work and being a credit to the school.

## Practice

They gave up their lunchtimes to practice ahead of the competition.

Headteacher Jenny Garratt said: "This was an excellent result and the whole school has been celebrating."

"I am so pleased that their dedication and enthusiasm has been recognised."

## Staffs Hoard research move

A £250,000 grant has been awarded to archaeologists to try to help them uncover the secrets of the Staffordshire Hoard.

The money will be spent on research, cataloguing and the creation of images of all 3,500 items, found in a field in Hammerwich, near Brownhills in 2009.

The first stage of the research into the ancient Anglo-Saxon find is due to be complete by October.

## X-rays

A team based at the Potteries Museum in Stoke is carrying out the work. The research will include preliminary catalogue entries, X-rays and the testing of metals.

An English Heritage spokesman said: "The research will answer some important questions about the hoard."

## Sky dive for charity

TWO workers from Walsall's Saddlers Shopping Centre and its managing agent DTZ made a sponsored sky dive.

Laura Guest, administrator at the shopping centre, and Hayley Whitehouse, finance administrator at DTZ's Birmingham office, took part in the skydive.

The pair jumped 12,500 ft to raise £500 for the NSPCC.

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## Alarm charge refunds for OAPs

AROUND £46,000 worth of refunds will be given to residents across Walsall following the decision to scrap community alarm charges for pensioners over 80.

More than 650 people are entitled to the cash back after making an annual payment to the council's service for vulnerable residents.

The introduction of community alarm charges has so far raked in over £200,000 since last autumn. The service ranges from a basic alarm service to motion, fire and gas detectors.

### Discount

The cost is £12.50 a month or a one-off payment of £140 including a discount.

The council agreed to axe the price for the those aged 80 or above from April. This has meant refunds of £46,000 being paid out by the council.

Service manager Anne Doyle said: "Following the council decision, an exercise is currently under way to refund citizens who made a one-off annual payment in advance. There are 673 of these clients who will be refunded between £58.36 and £116.68 at a total cost to the council of £46,000."

## Work starts on new KFC at pub site

CONSTRUCTION work creating a fast food restaurant and a new vet's in Walsall is under way following demolition of a pub.

The £1.3 million scheme, which will create around 45 jobs, is forging ahead on the site of the Four Crosses pub in Leamore.

The project involves a KFC drive-through and restaurant alongside a veterinary surgery.

### Demolition

The steel structure is now being installed for the scheme at the junction of Somerfield Road and Leamore Lane. Demolition work of the former building was completed last month.

The pub had stood empty for around two years prompting calls by residents and councillors for it to be bulldozed due to it becoming a target for vandals.

# New Express & Star desktop service is proving a real page-turner for readers



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A smart-search facility means that readers can use keywords to find the story they want, either from the latest edition or the papers in their archive.

Users can also save pages to their device, share with friends on social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter, or send articles via email.

Express & Star editor Adrian Faber said: "The new page-turning desktop service is the latest development in the Express & Star's proud tradition of embracing new technology. Our team is committed to producing the best newspapers possible, which readers will enjoy whether it is in the printed version or online."

Head of digital William Beavis said the new service was "the perfect way to digest

the Express & Star's excellent content". He said: "It replicates the page-turning experience which so many readers like, allowing readers to get the real news via their desktop."

The new service comes after the Express & Star's app for iPad and iPhone users was launched in January.

Hundreds of readers have taken out subscriptions, with many leaving positive comments on iTunes and the Appstore.

The new desktop service requires a separate subscription to the app. Whether it is via the app or the desktop, users pay £3.99 per month or £1.49 a week to subscribe. If you only want a single edition, a new feature allows you to pay 69p for a one-off purchase.

App users can take advantage of a free seven-day trial before they commit. Desktop customers can view a sample edition before they sign up.

# Hundreds claiming more in benefits than average wage

ALMOST 300 people in Walsall are claiming £26,000 or more in benefits a year, new figures have revealed. A total of 299 people are collecting benefits higher than the average Black Country wage.

The figures were revealed by the leader of Walsall Council Mike Bird during his annual state of Walsall debate in front of fellow councillors. Councillor Bird said many of those receiving benefits of £26,000 or more a year were larger families.

These people would be affected by a proposed Government cap on household benefits expected to come into force, which would set the level at no more than £26,000.

The council leader said: "We have to give people the impetus to go to work rather than stay at home and get this level of money."

"What I think ought to be considered is that people take jobs and if they are low paid, then the income is topped up with benefits."

### Work

"We need to encourage a culture of getting people back into work."

In 2011, the average wage in the Black Country was estimated to be around £22,000.

The debate also revealed there are currently 27,850 people out of work in Walsall out of a total working population of 157,900. A figure of 6.7 per cent of working-age people on the borough claim jobseeker's allowance. The rate of female claimants is rising faster than that of males.

A report on the borough says: "There was a huge increase in unemployment claimants during the recession, when Walsall fared even worse than England overall and still has not recovered. Figures for the borough are currently twice as high as they were at the start of 2005."

## Blooming lovely display at church



Church secretary May Stockall and Paula Pinches at Clayhanger Methodist Church

FLORAL displays brightened up a church in Walsall and helped members celebrate its 127th anniversary.

A flower festival was held at Clayhanger Methodist Church. There were 14 floral arrangements at the church in Clayhanger Lane.

The Rev Molly Chitokwindo said: "The flowers are beautiful. As the minister of the church, I wish it could look like this every Sunday when I'm preaching."

Volunteers from the church, neighbouring churches and local organisations helped to arrange the floral displays.

## Woeful weather wipes out Wakes

AN ANNUAL three-day music and entertainment festival in Burntwood that attracts around 10,000 people and was due to take place this weekend has been cancelled due to the woeful weather.

Burntwood Wakes was called off a week before it was due to be held at the town's rugby club because the ground was too soggy to put up the stages.

It comes after several events in Walsall fell foul to the weather, including the Blackwood Picnic in the Park in Streetly and a volunteer day at Goscote Greenacres community project.

The Wakes, which is in its eighth year at its current venue, was due to go ahead from tomorrow (Friday) to Sunday but organisers said they had no option but to cancel it.

### Soaked

Mary Danby, the clerk at Burntwood Town Council, said: "We should be putting up the stages but the ground is just soaked. It's very sad but we're not the only one, this is happening everywhere."

Organiser Mrs Danby said: "We have spent the best part of a year organising it and now we need to phone everyone to tell them, it is cancelled."

The rugby club and town council sought specialist advice on the state of the ground at the Wakes venue. They also faced a gloomy weather forecast.

The council said the historic festival would be back next year.

## NEWS in brief

### Urban images going on show

A NEW exhibition will launch at the New Art Gallery in Walsall town centre from tomorrow (Friday).

Photographer Mark Power has produced a series of images of urban landscapes and he will be talking about his work during a preview evening being held at the gallery today (Thursday).

The exhibition, called Black Country Stories, will be on show from July 20 to September 15.

People can attend today's a preview evening between 6pm and 8pm on July 19. Book on (01922) 654400.

### Rapper answers on a big screen

AMERICAN rapper Ice-T will be answering questions live via satellite after a screening of a new documentary at a Walsall cinema tonight (Thursday).

Showcase, in Bentley Mill Way, will be showing Something from Nothing: The Art of Rap on July 19 at 9pm.

It will also feature performances by other rappers Chuck D, Melle Mel and Raekwon.

The event is being broadcast live from the Hammersmith Apollo in London. Tickets are £12.50.

### Story telling at the village library

STORYTIME sessions will take place at Pelsall Library this month.

The library in High Street is hosting a session on July 24 for youngsters under three, and another on July 31 for children over five.

The sessions take place between 10am and 11am.

### Looking for the Bloxwich factor

YOUNG singers and musicians can showcase their talents at an open mic night which is being held at Bookmark Bloxwich tomorrow night (Friday).

The event will be held at the Elmore Row venue on July 20 from 7.30pm and admission is free.

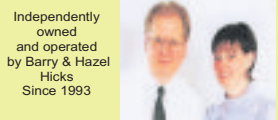
### Jumble sale at Methodist church

A JUMBLE sale will be held at Darlaston Methodist Church later this month to raise funds.

It takes place at the church in Slater Street on Thursday, July 26, from 2pm with admission 20p.

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## NEWS

# Writer's retreat is at the end of his garden



Author Steve Jones in his garden shed

**EVERY man loves his shed. But for Steve Jones, his garden retreat is more about poems and plays than shovels and spades.**

The 59-year-old, who works as a fire engineering estimator, has been writing in his shed for almost a decade and has now produced his first novel.

Mr Jones got the shed at his home in St Johns Road, Pelsall, for his studies when he signed up to a creative writing course at Birmingham University nine



The Pelsall garden shed turned writer's retreat

by Lisa O'Brien

years ago. He has now written a supernatural detective fiction novel called Kanita's Story.

The father-of-three said: "The story is in two parts. The first part is a story about Kanita who comes from Thailand and goes to study creative writing at Birmingham University."

"She goes on to write a book about a group of people who solve moral and ethical crimes. It's a supernatural crime thriller. I've printed 50 copies and am contacting publishers. I write

in my shed which I got when I started my creative writing course.

"It's something I always wanted to do. If I can get this book published, I will be fulfilling a lifetime wish."

Mr Jones said time spent writing has been an inspiration and support during tough times in his personal life.

"Writing is very therapeutic, for the last three years I have been looking after my father who is ill and my mother who is in the last stages of Alzheimer's."

"The book has helped me get through it by taking my mind off it."

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## NEWS

# Field work under way but ball games ban continues

## Bracelets to fund Paris trip



Girls Venture Corps Air Cadets, from left Carina Selvey, Hayley Dale-Dolan, Elisha Jackson and Stacy Hammerton with their bracelets

MEMBERS of an air cadets group are hoping their handmade bracelets will help them fund a trip to Paris.

Walsall branch of the Girls Venture Corps Air Cadets will sell their bracelets at several community events this summer. Twelve

members aged from 10 to 18 need to raise £349 each to pay for the trip, which will see them take part in kayaking and sailing, as well as a day out at Disneyland Paris.

Visit [www.gvac.org.uk](http://www.gvac.org.uk) for more information on the organisation and where the bracelets will be on sale.

BALL games are not expected to return to a playing field in Walsall until autumn next year, despite imminent £400,000 plans to renovate the contaminated site.

Sports have been banned at Broadway West Playing Fields since 2003 when dangerous metals were found in soil samples. Work to improve the fields, which is expected to include an engineering cap and new layer of top soil, is due to be completed this winter.

But the council admits sports will not be allowed until September 2013 at the earliest. This is to allow the land to become fully established ahead of games taking place.

### Testing

Ground testing has taken place and a formal planning application prepared so the work can get started in coming months.

Palfrey councillor and current deputy mayor Mohammad Nazir has led a long-running campaign for sports to return to the playing fields.

He said he was pleased the project was pushing ahead, although if done earlier the fields would now be in use and the scheme could have cost less.

Councillor Nazir insisted the priority was to ensure once the fields were re-opened they would be available for many years. He added: "It is a bit of a disappointment it will be next year but now it is moving forward the main concern now is to make sure all the work is done properly."

At least 10 sports clubs, including Walsall Star Cricket Club and Bescot Swifts Junior Football Club, had to be found alternative venues when the fields were closed.

## Watch meeting

RESIDENTS in Rushall, Pelsall and Shelfield are invited to a neighbourhood watch meeting on Wednesday, July 25.

The event will take place at Rushall Labour Club in Lichfield Road at 7pm.

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**NEWS****Little dancers  
scoop several  
festival prizes**

TWINKLE-TOED youngsters at a Walsall Wood dance are celebrating after taking prizes in a regional competition.

The talented members of Dance City School of Dance, based in Walsall Wood Road, recently took part in the Mirfield Dance Festival in Birmingham, competing against hundreds of other young people from across the Midlands.

School principal Tracey Dicken, aged 31, said she was very impressed with how well her talented students did.

**Proud**

She said: "I am very proud of them, they have all worked really hard and deserve it."

Emily Scott, aged nine, from Aldridge came first in the ballet competition and fourth in the modern dance round.

Neave Eussan, eight, also from Aldridge, came second in the ballet heats and fourth in the lyrical. Sydney Garratt, six, from Aldridge, came first in the lyrical and second in the ballet.

Emmie Youster, seven, from Pelsall, came third in the ballet, and Elise Dunn, seven, also from Pelsall came third in the lyrical category.

The Dance City School of Dance has around 130 members, who range from two years old to adults.

For more information call (01922) 740 999.



Mirfield Dance Festival winners Elsie Dunn age seven, Neave Eussan, eight, Emmie Youster, seven, Sydney Garratt, six and Emily Scott, nine at Dance City, Walsall Wood Road, Aldridge

**Beauty spot  
visitor plan  
in back on  
the agenda**

A STUDY is being carried out into refurbishing the Barr Beacon lodge and create a new visitor centre.

The Barr Beacon Trust and Walsall Council are looking to push forward a scheme for a cafe and meeting room at the Walsall landmark.

Multi-million pound plans for a visitor centre with children's education room and community exhibition area at the beauty spot were thwarted more than five years. That was part of a larger £2.3 million project in the Black Country Urban Park bid of 2007, which came second in the ITV People's Millions competition.

After missing out on that prize Walsall was forced to shelve the scheme. However, new proposals are being developed subject to funding.

Councillor Adrian And-ew, regeneration chief and chairman of the Barr Beacon Trust, said: "We are looking into a feasibility study to make more use of Barr Beacon Lodge as a visitor centre and cafe."

The war memorial is being restored after receiving a £440,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

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## NEWS

# Top award for Katie

WALSALL College Business student Katie Farman has won the Outstanding Business and Enterprise category at the National BTEC Awards 2012 held in London. Now in their second year, the awards recognise vocational excellence and reward outstanding individuals and centres. Katie, aged 20, was honoured for her excellent performance on her business management course, at the ceremony hosted by Radio 1 DJ Reggie Yates.

### University

Katie, who will be starting work on a university degree after completing her course, said: "Studying a BTEC course has helped me to develop a deeper understanding of business and enterprise. It has also given me more self-confidence as well as the determination, motivation and the desire to achieve my ambition of going to university."

College business lecturer Jeremy Bridgman added: "Katie is an outstanding student. Judges were particularly impressed with her creativity and strong leadership qualities."



Katie Farman at the awards ceremony in London with host Reggie Yates

# Fly-tipper caught on undercover camera

A CARER who was caught on a covert camera dumping rubbish out of the back of a VW Golf at a Walsall fly-tipping hotspot has been hit with a £1,200 bill.

Feena Kauser, aged 27, left a trail of soiled linen sheets and bedding, along with a plastic container with plastic aprons, in Rayboulds Bridge Road, near Reedswood. Walsall Council purchased six undercover cameras as part of its on-going war against fly-tipping last autumn. She was caught on one of them on February 26 this year.

Kauser, of Lewis Street, Birchills, pleaded guilty to a charge of depositing without an environmental permit when she appeared at Walsall Magistrates Court last week.

She was fined £250, ordered to pay £958.21 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

Mrs Kerry Munro, prosecuting, said the land was off the main Green Lane. She said it was out of public view and there was no legitimate reason for anyone to access the roadway.

by Craig Hughes

She said Kauser had opened the boot of the car and left the rubbish on the road. She told the court cameras had been brought in to tackle the "overwhelming problem of fly-tipping" around the borough.

Mr Julian Derry, defending, said Kauser worked as a carer and also cared for her mother.

### 'Stupid'

She had intended on getting the car cleaned and accepted her actions were "really stupid."

It emerged earlier this year that almost a quarter-of-a-million pounds was spent clearing piles of rubbish dumped by fly-tippers across the borough in just 12 months.

It cost around £237,500 for workers from the cash-strapped council to remove the litter and waste from sites within Walsall.

There were more than 2,000 complaints and offences logged with Walsall Council environmental bosses from January to December 2011.

## NEWS

### in brief

#### New store will create 25 jobs

UP TO 25 jobs will be created with the launch of a new Co-op store in Walsall. The 3,000 sq ft business is due to open on the old Vauxhall Motors site along Broadway, Fullbrook, in November.

The existing Midcounties post office, based nearby, will be relocated to the new store and will be open longer hours.

Andy Cresswell, deputy chief executive of Co-op, said: "Walsall is our traditional heartland."

#### Guest singer at choir's concert

SHELFIELD Male Voice Choir will be joined by guest soloist Sharon Burns at a fundraising concert being held at Pelsall Community Centre on Saturday.

The Ladies Social Section have organised the 7.30pm concert in aid of choir funds. There will also be a sale of produce.

Tickets cost £6 including light refreshments. Tickets will be available on the door or in advance on (01922) 682070.

#### A big crowd for Beacon bands

IT HAD to compete with Wimbledon but Bands on the Beacon 3-60 drew a record crowd with 1,500 music lovers at this year's event. Organisers were delighted at the increase in numbers as people flocked to see a range of acts and enjoy Walsall Youth Festival.

**summer sale**

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## NEWS

# Gordon took up running at 79



Former postman Gordon Woodlands, aged 80, of Bentley, prepares to take part in a 10k run for charity as a postman.

Now 80-year-old Gordon Woodlands has taken to running the streets to raise money for good causes.

He only took up running at the age of 79 and his latest challenge was a 10k event in London.

Mr Woodlands, from Bentley, headed to the capital to raise money for Acorns Children's Hospice and Get Kids Going.

### Active

He completed the challenge in just over an hour and has no plans to put his feet up just yet. "I like running, it keeps me fit and active and gives me something to do," he said. Mr Woodlands runs most days and also uses the outdoor gym at Reedswood Park every Tuesday. To sponsor him, visit [www.virginmoneygiving.com/gordonwoodlands](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/gordonwoodlands)

# Rail users are happier with service than a year ago

**RAIL passengers in the West Midlands are more satisfied with their travel than a year ago, according to new survey results.**

Centro, the region's transport authority, has welcomed the findings of the National Passenger Survey, which collects passengers' opinions on train services twice a year across the network.

Councillor Kath Hartley, chairman of Centro's putting passengers first committee, said: "In comparison with the rest of the country we have done very well here in the West Midlands.

"However, there is no room for complacency, we are still in the middle of the table and that means we will be pulling out all the stops to ensure we get to the top."

In the survey the West Midlands was ranked fourth out of England's seven passenger transport executives, with all its scores either increasing on the previous year or staying the same.

Overall satisfaction in the West Midlands is 88 per cent, which is above the national average and represents a four per cent improvement on last year.

Train operator London Midland, which holds the franchise to run local rail services across the West Midlands, was singled out for praise in the report, especially for its work in dealing with delays to services.

### Attitude

The survey found 83 per cent of London Midland passengers were satisfied with information provided at its stations, against a national average of 81 per cent.

Attitude and helpfulness of staff was rated as two per cent above the national average of 71 per cent.

More passengers are satisfied with the amount of room on trains, as satisfaction levels rose eight per cent to 74 per cent.

Satisfaction with seating areas on trains was up seven per cent to 80 per cent.

London Midland's commercial director Richard Brooks said: "We at London Midland are delighted with these results, which reflect the hard work put in by our staff."

"However, we are not complacent and know that there is still room for improvement. All of us at London Midland, working in conjunction with our partners at Centro, will continue to identify ways to improve our performance for the benefit of our passengers."



## NEWS

## Addict sent to prison for growing cannabis

A DRUG addict who turned to growing his own cannabis after losing his job has been jailed for three months.

Police carried out a search on the home of Craig Rushton, in Park Road, Norton Canes, on New Year's Eve and found 32 plants under cultivation, Stafford Crown Court heard.

Rushton and two friends had spent £1,500 on buying and setting up the equipment, but the crop's street value was around £4,000, said Mr Paul Spratt, prosecuting.

Rushton, aged 23, admitted cultivating cannabis. He told officers he had been smoking cannabis since the age of 15 and had been spending £100 a week on the drug. Mr Chris Clark, defending, said Rushton was not gaining financially.

## Father gets two years over death of daughter

THE father of a girl who died seven years after he violently shook her as a baby has been jailed for two years.

Paul Slattery injured eight-week-old Caitlin Wetton, from Cheslyn Hay, so badly that she was left paralysed from the neck down, blind, unable to speak and with severe cerebral palsy.

The shaking episode lasted for up to 10 minutes when she was left in his care for an hour at the family home in Glenholme Drive in November 2002. Until then she had been in good health and lovingly cared for by her mother Michele Wetton, Birmingham Crown Court heard.

### Scalp

Slattery, aged 32, initially denied shaking Caitlin, claiming he had thrown her into the air in play.

Later he said he had "wagged" her from side to side, rolling her body on his arms.

Her injuries became apparent when she was admitted to Walsall Manor Hospital as an emergency later that day with a burn to her scalp caused, Slattery alleged, by being placed too close to a gas fire as she was cold and clammy.



Paul Slattery - jailed

Gareth Walters, prosecuting, said: "The reason for the clamminess was almost certainly the catastrophic brain damage that was developing."

Caitlin began twitching and having fits and was transferred to Birmingham Children's Hospital where doctors found bleeding on her brain.

Slattery served 30 months in jail for grievous bodily harm.

After Caitlin's death in 2010, he was re-arrested in Scotland, and charged with manslaughter. He pleaded guilty.

Nicholas Tatlow, defending, described Slattery as immature and emotionally detached.

Mrs Justice Thirlwall said the sentence reflected Slattery's remorse and previous imprisonment.

## Art project to anticipate new school building

PEOPLE in Darlaston can get creative to express their feelings through art as part of the £22 million rebuild of a school in the town.

Budding artists of all ages are being asked to help decorate the fence border of the new £22 million Darlaston Grace Academy building.

Groups from schools, youth and community centres are working with professional artist Luke Perry to produce temporary artwork which will be on the boards until the new school building opens next year.

The creative work aims to reflect the themes of respect, integrity, and excellence.

### Permanent

A bid will later be made for funding for a permanent piece of art work to stand in the grounds of George Rose Park, part of which has been swallowed up for the new school development.

Lyndon Parkes, Darlaston manager for the Walsall Partnership, said: "Art on the temporary hoardings will brighten the place up while work is under way and such rich themes will give us the basis for a fantastic piece of permanent art in the park if we can raise money."

The project will see five pieces of street art produced on the hoardings, each to reflect the themes.

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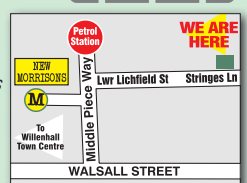
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## LETTERS

# Buses too wide for narrow road pose threat to safety

ONCE again Councillor Worrall is trying to create a divide between the residents of High Heath - The Chronicle, dated July 12, 2012 - Taking Bus off Field Lane...

As a resident of Field Lane for almost 30 years, we have seen a campaign launched against residents by Councillor Worrall and his followers.

The current trial has diverted the Main Line Bus service No 89 Walsall to Wolverhampton, which runs from 6.10am to 23.50pm 7 days a week, 78 buses a day along a small residential lane, as we already have the No 25 community bus service traveling along Field Lane. So one approx every 14 minutes. This was the cheapest and most profitable option for Centro / NX Buses - that in itself a problem allowing profits to come before common sense.

This trial was lobbied for in secrecy, with the High Heath

Forum deliberately refusing entrance to Field Lane residents because they knew if they followed the democratic route they would not succeed.

The tight timetable and frequency sees two or three buses in Field Lane at the same time. The total width of two buses varies between 572cm and 580cm (sizes of buses supplied by Peter Coates MD of National Express). Kerb to kerb Field Lane is between 542cm and 556cm wide - simple maths shows that this has created a safety issue as two buses are wider than the road! In order to pass the No 89 buses have to either mount the kerbs or pull into and block the side roads running off Field Lane. The Road Service Transport Guidelines state that these size buses require a minimum of six metres road width to safely pass each other, something Centro, the operators, are ignoring.

Walsall Highways have also monitored the trial and independently stated Field Lane is NOT suitable for bus stops on the grounds of safety, and that the No 89 bus is not suitable for Field Lane on the grounds that the frequency dictates that more than one bus is in Field Lane at the same time, creating the above safety concerns.

### Hazard

The Pelsall ward councillors have fought since 1994 to benefit the local community and have done a fantastic job, bus shelters, community policing, community transport, upkeep of The Common areas and have fought for a few years to get buses to service Fordbrook Lane and Mill Road. They are against the No 89 in Field Lane, because it is the wrong type of service and is a safety hazard. They are in favour of other options that better suit the WHOLE of the High Heath area. The 89 would still travel along Fordbrook Lane and Mill Road, but Broad Lane, Coronation Road, Field Lane, Church way and Autumn Drive would be served by a better Community Bus service with smaller buses that did not cause any safety issues - keeping the larger buses to the main roads.

Mr Worrall has totally ignored very sensible suggestions for an effective bus service that will better suit ALL areas of High Heath.

The majority of residents that have lobbied are using pensioner passes, which can only be used during mid morning to mid afternoon, they certainly do not need a bus at mid-night. The less mobile also have a very good ring and ride service that is not being fully utilised.

Councillor Worrall does not represent Field Lane residents, we come under Pelsall Ward, but he has lobbied our streets.

FIELD LANE RESIDENT  
name and address supplied

## LETTERS to the Editor

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

## Can't see problem with train service

WITH regard to the letter by Stan Taylor, The Chronicle, July 12, I am a regular traveller on the train from Walsall to Birmingham.

The majority of these trains travels on to Wolverhampton, so I don't understand when Mr Taylor says this service was only for a short time.

As long as I have been travelling on this train, there has always been a service to Wolverhampton from Walsall.

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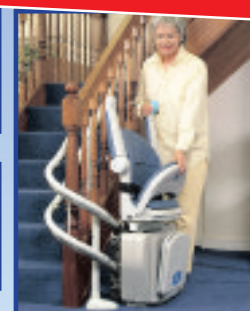
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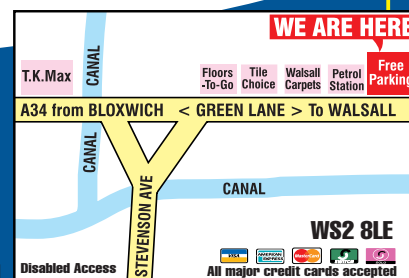
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## CLUB NEWS

Talk on life  
as a dame

# Club serves up treat

### PENN TG

THE first meeting in June was the Jubilee celebration and members dressed in red, white and blue.

Entertainment came from Richard Westcott and his 'Confessions of a Pantomime Dame'. He soon had everyone laughing and joining in.

Richard changed from a smartly dressed gentleman, applied his make-up, put on the padded underwear to make the dress look the part and with high heeled shoes and a lovely blonde wig transformed himself into a wonderful pantomime dame.

Quick costume changes were managed with help from one of the members doing his zips.

The group then had strawberries and cream, shortbread and sparkling wine to toast the Queen.

Members were taught how to make a box from folded paper squares at the social evening.

Social Studies speaker Jane James gave a talk on cycling and women, a fascinating insight into the early days of cycling and how women were hampered not only by the attitudes of the time but also by their clothes. Women's journals of the day even gave dire warnings of all the illnesses that could befall women after riding a bicycle.

Meetings are held at Penn United Community Hall, Penn Road, at 7.15pm on the second, third and fourth Wednesdays of the month.



Inner Wheel Club members sell their wares at the Wombourne Jubilee Carnival

### INNER WHEEL CLUB OF SEDGLEY & WOMBOURNE

AT THE Wombourne Jubilee Carnival members of the Inner Wheel club of Sedgley & Wombourne sold plated scones jam and butter as 'Wimbledon teas' and punch balloons with the funds raised going to Local charities supported by the group.

## Carnival congratulations

SPEAKER for the evening was Ed Shaw who gave an illustrated talk on central America.

After finishing National Service at the age of 20, he decided to cycle around the world finding work.

He particularly enjoyed the hospitality of the Americans and now has a holiday home in the 'middle of the Arizona desert' where he and his wife spend several months of the year.

At first, when Ed and his wife arrived in the States,

### WOMBOURNE WI

they purchased an old car to visit places on the way to their abode.

On the reverse trip, they explored more areas and then sold the vehicle before flying home.

Eventually they decided to buy a new, red pickup which also converts into a motor home enabling them

to explore more territories south of the border. Slides were shown of his travels including animals encountered along the way like a sloth, snakes and spiders.

Mr Shaw raises money for charity, on one occasion cycling across America. He has also cycled to Rome.

While eating hot dogs, members were reminded of their outing to Halfpenny Green and they congratulated themselves on a wonderful carnival.

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Standard Class	£99	£49
First Class Plus	£149	£119
Premier Dining	£225	£195

From: Tame Bridge Parkway (6:00am), Birmingham New Street (6:25am), Barnt Green (6:50am).

\*Supplement payable

**SATURDAY, 25 AUG**

### TRAVEL ABOARD THE YORK & WEARDALE EXPLORER

Explore historic York (*discount available*) or carry on to visit the Beamish Museum\*, or experience the Weardale Railway or visit the National Railway Museum's Locomotion\*

From: Shrewsbury (6:50am), Wellington (7:05am), Telford Central (7:15am), Codsall (7:30am), Wolverhampton (7:45am)

Return Fares (from all stations)		
Seating	Adults	Juniors
Standard Class	£69.50	£34
First Class Plus	£119	£89
Premier Dining	£189	£159

\*Supplement payable

**MONDAY, 27 AUG**

### TAKE THE DARTMOUTH FLYER IN ROYAL REGATTA WEEK

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Return Fares (from all stations)		
Seating	Adults	Juniors
Standard Class	£69.50	£34
First Class Plus	£149	£119
Premier Dining	£189	£159

From: Tame Bridge Parkway (7:15am), Birmingham New Street (7:45am), Solihull (8:00am), Warwick Parkway (8:25am), Banbury (8:55am).

**FRIDAY, 31 AUG**

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From: Leamington Spa (7:25), Coventry (7:45am), Birmingham International (8:05am), Tame Bridge Parkway (8:30am), Stafford (9:00am), Crewe (10:00am)

Return Fares (from all stations)		
Seating	Adults	Juniors
Standard Class	£75	£34
First Class	£119	£84
Premier Dining	£199	£169

**SATURDAY, 15 SEPT**

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## NEWS

# Patients unhappy at GP surgeries merger

## Art on show at hospital



Gerry Mahoney with his work on show in corridors at Manor Hospital

PAINTINGS by a Walsall artist are decorating the corridors at Manor Hospital.

Work by Gerry Mahoney is on display at the Pleck Road hospital.

The hospital has three exhibition spaces where artists can show their work for three months in the hope of brightening up corridors.

Father-of-one Mr Mahoney, of Hatherton, is showing his prints

and portraits, many of which are landscapes inspired by periods living in America and France.

The 58-year-old artist and musician said: "The paintings are mostly figurative landscapes of places that I have lived in the past."

Walsall NHS Trust is looking for local artists to show their work. Anyone interested should call 01922 721172 extension 6344.

TWO GP surgeries in Walsall will merge under new plans – creating a practice of more than 5,000 patients. But campaigners are determined to stop the merger.

Staff and patients at the Sai Medical Practice in Forrester Street say they do not have the space or facilities to accommodate patients from the Wharf surgery in Pleck Road.

The Sai practice has had three different service providers in the past two years and patients are opposed to any more changes.

The Wharf surgery, run by Phoenix, opened just two years ago but does not currently have enough patients to make it a going concern.

### Sense

Health chiefs say it would make better financial sense to merge the two practices. Phil Griffin, of the primary care trust, told a packed public meeting at the Sai surgery last night the surgeries were just over quarter of a mile apart, which meant only slightly longer journey times.

He also warned Sai patients may get another provider when the current contract is up next March whether a merger goes ahead or not.

The meeting was called by the Sai Patient Participation Group who said the proposed merger had come as a bolt out of the blue.

A petition has been set up to oppose the plan and patients have asked that the matter be decided by a ballot.

## QM win book quiz

A BOOK quiz in the borough saw pupils from Pool Hayes Art and Community School, Willenhall, piped to the post by Queen Mary's.

The Walsall School's Library Support Service hosted the event. Sponsors MLS said they were impressed with how it went.

Anne Plimmer, school librarian said: "I cannot praise the pupils enough."

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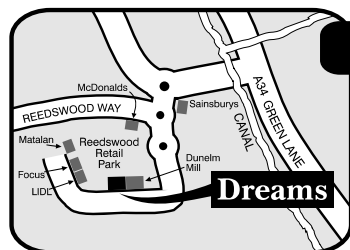
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## NEWS



Smethwick canal pump house off Great Western Street by the Galton Valley Canal Heritage Centre

# Canals are to make a splash on new Google map service

RIVERS and canals from across Staffordshire and the Black Country are being included on a hi-tech mapping service de-signed by experts at the internet search engine Google.

In its latest mapping project, the team behind Google Maps has started plotting all of the UK's towpaths in a bid to get more people enjoying the country's rivers and canals. Google Maps will be updated later this year to allow users to plan trips which include locks, bridges and towpaths along the 2,000 miles of river paths in the UK.

Among some of the routes listed will be the Staffordshire & Worcestershire canal, which takes in large parts of the area, including the historic Bratch Locks at Wombourne.

The mapping service will also include details of the Dudley Canal, which was used in the 1700s to transport coal from coalfields near Dudley to Stourbridge.

Google has started the project in partnership with the Canal and River Trust.

## Treasures

Tony Hales, the chairman of the trust, said: "We are delighted that these exciting partners have come on board as we launch.

"This is a huge vote of confidence in the Canal and River Trust and recognition of the important role it will play as the guardian of one of the nation's environmental treasures."

Ed Parsons, a geospatial technologist at Google UK, added: "Canal towpaths offer green routes through our towns and cities, and by working with the Canal and River Trust we're adding towpaths to Google Maps and encouraging people to discover their local waterway."

In AprilGoogle added live Tube information to Google Maps from Transport for London in preparation for a surge in public transport use during the Olympics.

It also updated its maps service to show real-time traffic conditions, allowing it to calculate the shortest route to a user's destination.

Where Google has enough information, roads are colour-coded based on the level of congestion. Green routes are moving well, while red routes are slow.

The feature is available on Google Maps on the web and for Android mobile users in Britain, the US, Canada, France and Australia. It covers major routes across Britain.

## Putting the popular waterways on the map

Which waterways and features will be included?

■ **The Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal**, which takes in a large part of the area and snakes near to Stafford before taking in Penkridge, Acton Trussell and Calfe Heath. The canal enters north-west Wolverhampton and shadows the River Smestow and around Compton and Tettenhall, before descending into the Bratch Locks at Wombourne.

■ **The Bratch Locks** at Wombourne are a noted

feature of the canal and were opened in 1772 as a three lock staircase. They were later re-engineered as three separate locks.

■ **The Dudley Canal** was used in the 1700s to transport coal from coalfields near Dudley to Stourbridge.

■ **The Wyrley & Essington Canal**, nicknamed Curley Wyrley due to its twisting course, once busy with boats carrying coal. Runs for nearly 17 miles from Wolverhampton through to Brownhills.

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## NEWS

# Year road ban after driver's U-turn panic

A SOCIAL worker who told police he "panicked" after doing U-turn on a major route into Birmingham has been banned from driving for 12 months.

Gurmek Tung, aged 39, of Woodruff Way, Walsall, was seen making the manoeuvre on the Aston Expressway by Inspector Hathaway in an unmarked car on Sunday, June 5 last year, Warwick Crown Court heard last week.

Mr John Brotherton, prosecuting, explained there was no central barrier. He said the three inbound lanes were open, as were the three outbound lanes, but the red central contraflow lane was closed.

The inspector saw a blue Fiesta on its way out of the city suddenly swerve and cross outbound lane three and the central lane.

### Reverse

The court heard that the vehicle then came to a halt sideways to the flow of traffic.

Tung, who was then pursued by police, then began to reverse back in an attempt to carry out a three-point turn.

The inspector told him to pull over but Tung continued to reverse and drove at speed towards the M6.

Mr Brotherton said he was stopped and arrested on the M6 slip road and began to cry, saying: "I'm sorry. I was lost, and I panicked."

Tung, who had three previous speeding convictions, initially denied dangerous driving but later changed his plea.

Ms Julia Powell, mitigating, said Tung – a social worker in the Mental Health Trust's early intervention team – was likely to lose his job if he was banned.

Tung was handed a 12-month community order, told to do 120 hours unpaid work and pay £340 costs.

He received a 12-month driving ban.

## School quality award



Celebrating school success at Meadow View JMI are, from left, back deputy head Judith Harris, reception teacher Claire Campbell, front pupils Harry Sinclair, Alexander Bailey and Georgia Regan

STAFF and pupils at a Walsall school are top of the class after becoming one of the first in the region to get a top quality mark.

The improvements made by pupils at Meadow View JMI in Great Barr impressed judges who visited the Frampton Way school.

It helped to earn them a gold mark in the Ormiston Achievement

Quality Mark. Inspectors visited the school to chat to staff and pupils to form their views.

Staff said the quality mark was equivalent to an outstanding rating from education watchdog Ofsted.

Judith Harris, deputy head-teacher, said: "We're absolutely delighted."

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## NEWS

# Fuel error may have led to plane crash tragedy

## Olympic dance date



Dance students, front, Nola Mardenborough, 22, with top left Aaron Watkinson, 18, and right Mario Simek, 19, preparing for the Cultural Olympiad performance of an opera

DANCE students at Walsall College have been selected to perform in a production in celebration of the London Olympics.

They were chosen by the Birmingham Opera Company to perform in the world premiere next month of Karlheinz Stockhausen's Wednesday From Light, as part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad.

Aaron Watkinson, Mario Simek, Charlotte Harper and Nola Mardenborough are among a cast of more than 150 performers who will be performing at the Argyle Works. Mario, 19 from Wolverhampton, said: "Working with a cast of professional performers is very inspiring and just confirms my desire to make it as a professional dancer."

A PLANE crash that killed a 21-year-old former Walsall student probably happened because the light aircraft was not carrying the right amount of fuel, a coroner said.

Trainee pilot Jaskinder Kaur Samra, a former Queen Mary's High School pupil, of Cannock Road, Wednesfield, died when the plane crashed in the US in September 2010 as it was making a last-gasp attempt to reach another air strip but fell three-and-half miles short.

American pilot Abraham George, 24, was also killed but a British trainee pilot, Shaun Thacker, who had been at flight school with Miss Samra, survived. He told an inquest in Smethwick last week the Cessna 172K's fuel gauges were low. He said: "I told Abraham and he said he had done the calculation for the distance and that he trusted his maths better than a fuel gauge on a 1969 plane."

Later the engine was struggling and the pilot made a mayday call and Mr Thacker was told to attempt an emergency landing but it was too late.

Black Country coroner Robin Balmain said US investigators found the pilot's flight plan allowed for the plane to burn 33.5 gallons at a rate of nine gallons per hour but the engine had been modified so that fuel would burn off at 11 gallons. In recording a verdict of accidental death, he said: "There's evidence there was a miscalculation as to the amount of fuel that was going to be used."

Miss Samra's family said a solicitor was looking into whether they had a case against a firm which the plane was registered to. Her mother Mindie Singh said: "We are not going to get a definite answer for what happened. We just have to make sure Jaskinder's memory will live on by making sure we hold on to happy memories."

On leaving Queen Mary's, Miss Samra had become an air hostess.



Jaskinder Kaur Samra

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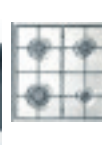
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## FOCUS ON BLOXWICH

### Birthday presents given to hospice

**GENEROUS** Gary Hackett got just what he wanted for his 50th birthday – a huge present for St Giles Walsall Hospice.

The Bloxwich birthday boy insisted he didn't want presents when he hit his half-century this summer, instead asking friends and family to make a donation to his favourite charity.

As a result of Gary's generosity, St Giles Walsall Hospice is now £1,850 better off, with the kind donation funding care for people in the local area living with cancer and other serious illnesses.

And, since his 50th birthday, Gary has topped up his fundraising total with a cool £900 after completing the 100km Brewood Cycle Challenge in aid of the hospice.

#### Charity

The hospice is close to his heart as several of his friends have been cared for by St Giles.

"It's a wonderful charity that does so much for the people of Walsall and the surrounding area that I couldn't think of a better cause to raise money for," said Gary, who works for Leamore Windows in Bloxwich.

Gary and his colleagues first became inspired to raise money for St Giles Walsall Hospice after carrying out some work for the leading local charity.

# Care home complex to create 30 jobs on old substation site

**AN AMENDED** scheme to create a new care complex bringing up to 30 jobs in Bloxwich has been submitted to council chiefs.

The modern 28-bed extra care rehabilitation base is earmarked for the site of the former electricity substation in Lichfield Road.

Applicants Care UK Mental Health Partnership Ltd received planning permission from Walsall Council for the scheme in spring.

A slightly amended scheme for the layout of the main hub, bringing 33 full-time positions, has been resubmitted for consideration.

It will help to push forward the project which includes accommodation, dining area, communal lounge, therapy and meeting rooms.

The plans also include an independent hospital for people with mental health issues. The project includes

by Craig Hughes

14 parking spaces within the grounds.

It is now due to be discussed by council planning officers who have previously backed the principle. A decision can then be made under delegated powers.

Head of planning David Elsworth said there were no implications on Green Belt openness and the character of the area. He added the issue of mental health needs are a growing for the borough and it was considered the need for the facility has been demonstrated.

### Award for boss at Bridles development

SITE manager John Barker of Barratt West Midlands has become a winner in the first round of judging for the annual National House-Building Council Pride in the Job Awards.

He has now been shortlisted for a regional title for his work at the housebuilder's The Bridles development in Bloxwich.

Pride in the Job recognises the best site managers, who are responsible for managing the construction of new homes from start to finish.

Regional Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in the autumn.



Artist Ian Edwards celebrates space travel and aviation at his exhibition

### Take-off for tank art show

FROM futuristic planetary rover tanks to classic Second World War fighter planes – the space travel and aviation industries are being celebrated in a new exhibition by a Bloxwich artist in Wolverhampton.

In his spare time, artist Ian Edwards, of Minewood Close, creates paintings and models reflecting his fascination with flight. He has even designed his own tank suitable for negotiating a range of landscapes.

His interest in air travel started when he was a cadet with the Air Training Corps in Aldridge, aged 14. Now 49, he has opened an aviation-themed art exhibition at Wolverhampton Central Library in Snow Hill.

"I've always been keen on art. A lot of the skills and methods I use are self-taught," said the quality control officer at Wolverhampton-based aerospace firm Trac Group.

The exhibition will be on display at the library until Saturday.

### Football team in plea for players

A JUNIOR football team from Bloxwich is looking for budding Beckhams and Rooneys to join their ranks in time for the forthcoming new season.

Gunners Football Club have struck off on their own after the club they were previously associated with disbanded.

The under 13s team wants to strengthen its squad with players who will be at year eight at school ahead, of their new campaign in the Walsall Junior Youth League.

The new season will kick off in September and training sessions are under way at King George V Playing Fields off Stafford Road on Saturdays from 10am to 12 noon.

#### Parents

Anyone who is interested in playing should ask their parents to telephone Chris on 07823539738 or Jason on 07905260980.

The team also has to buy a new kit and have strip changed and are seeking sponsorship to help cover those costs.

Abd this includes looking to purchase new waterproof coats for the substitutes too.

Sponsors and players are being urged to get in touch in the coming weeks so the team will be up and ready for the new season.

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## NEWS

# Attempted metal theft led to M6 traffic jams

## Keep your hair on!



Scissors out for Matt Powell, aka Mad Dog Maxx, and Tom Mason. The loser of the match will have their hair shaved off in the middle of the ring in front of the audience.

Mr Powell, aged 27, of Fullbrook, said: "Myself and Tom Mason have battled all over the Midlands. There is a huge rivalry. It has come to the point that a score needs to be settled." The show starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5, or £17.50 for a family of four.

Walsall's Matt Powell, who wrestles as Mad Dog Maxx, will be stepping into the ring against 21-year-old rival Tom Mason from Dudley at Darlaston All Active Club, in Willenhall Road.

**METAL** thieves have struck along a stretch of the M6 motorway just once in the past six months – but left behind a repair bill of £100,000.

Highways Agency bosses this week revealed the cost of repair work after suspected metal thieves sparked a blaze in a cable chamber.

The fire in a substation near Junction 10A at Essington knocked out the hard shoulder between West Bromwich and Walsall, leading to peak hour hold-ups. It took a number of days for the fourth lane to be fully operational at peak periods again.

Thirty-two overhead signals, 14 CCTV cameras, 12 traffic counting loops and four emergency roadside telephones were impacted by the attempted theft.

### Vandalism

The vandal attack in March was the only one logged by highways chiefs between junctions 7 at Great Barr and 14 at Stafford between January and June 2012 this year.

This compares to eight reports of theft, attempted theft and vandalism of cable from last September to January in the stretch of motorway from Cannock to West Bromwich.

Highways Agency spokeswoman Jo Carroll said action had been taken to crack down on the number of times the motorway is targeted.

"This thoughtless criminal act caused disruption for many road users on the M6 in the West Midlands. The rest of the motorway network remained unaffected as the damage was isolated to a small, yet very busy, section of the M6," she said.

### Shropshire ramble

WALSALL group of the Ramblers will be heading to Shrewsbury on Sunday.

Non-members are welcome to take part in the circular nine-mile moderate walk offering views of The Wrekin and Stiperstones. Call (01922) 685672 or 683616 for details.

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## MEMORY LANE



'The Barracks', Chapel Green, Willenhall 1950



Willenhall Swifts FC 1906-7 with county and town cups



The Brown Jug Inn, Willenhall, early 1900s



Dr Joseph Tonks (centre), family and friends 1885



Workers at their benches at the Josiah Parkes &amp; Sons Lock Factory in Willenhall, about 1928-30

# The meadows that became 'Humpshire'

**WILLENHALL, between Walsall and Wolverhampton, was originally called 'Willenhalch', Anglo-Saxon for 'the meadowland of Willan'.**

First mentioned in the 700s, when King Ethelbald of Mercia signed a treaty there, William the Conqueror's Domesday Book (1086) records it as 'Willenhala'.

In the Middle Ages, Willenhall was a small agricultural village with a chapel within the parish of Wolverhampton. But from 1840, Willenhall had its own parish church, St Giles, and the present day building dates from 1867.

Willenhall's population grew to around 300 by 1666, but in the 1700s it expanded dramatically with the Industrial Revolution. The now industrial town centred around Market Place and Stafford Street, comprising many tiny streets crammed with houses, workshops and pubs.

A thriving mining community grew up around Lane Head and Sandbeds, and Portobello became known for brickmak-

*by Stuart Williams*

ing. Coal mining was important in the Willenhall area early on but declined after the 1800s when the mines became flooded following a strike.

Willenhall became world-famous as a centre for lock making, which in Elizabethan times had begun developing in Willenhall, Wolverhampton and Bilston, and by the mid-1800s this trade was mainly centred in Willenhall.

### Workshops

In 1855 there were 340 local lock makers, working entirely by hand, mostly in small workshops.

Young apprentice lock filers worked bent over, developing hump backs, which gave Willenhall the nickname of 'Humpshire'. Noted Willenhall lockmakers included Yale & Towne, Josiah Parkes & Sons and John Harper & Co.

In 1849 poor housing and sanitation led to a cholera epidemic; 292 people died, shocking the town into improving conditions, and in 1854 Willenhall Local Board

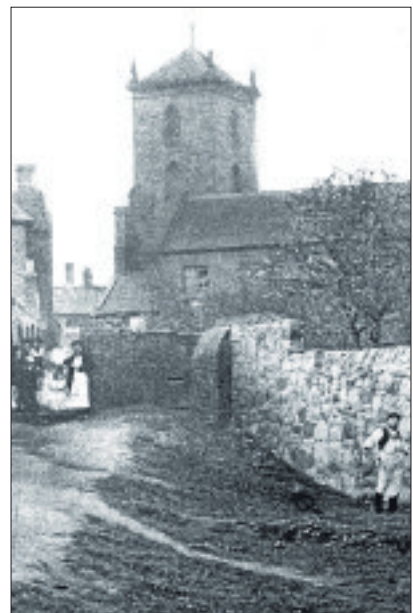
of Health, forerunner of Willenhall Urban District Council (1894), was formed.

Reflecting local civic pride, several municipal buildings were erected, including the Town Hall and Library in Clemson Street in 1866, and in 1922 a Memorial Park was opened, honouring those killed in the Great War.

Willenhall's best-known monument is however its ornate and imposing Memorial Clock in Market Place, commemorating Dr Tonks, a highly respected and revered Victorian physician.

Willenhall became part of Walsall borough in 1966, but remains independent-minded with a strong identity and a great sense of heritage.

■ Prints of pictures in this feature and thousands more are available to purchase by special order from Walsall Local History Centre. For local and family history, drop into the centre in Essex Street, part of Walsall Council. Tel: 01922 721305. For more information online see [www.walsall.gov.uk/localhistorycentre](http://www.walsall.gov.uk/localhistorycentre)



The old St Giles Church, Willenhall, pictured mid 19th Century before the current church was built

## Harry Shaw

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Manchester United Museum & Tour Including Admission & Free time at Trafford Centre	30.50	26.00	23.00
<b>Saturday 8 September Cont...</b>			
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<b>Sunday 9 September 2012</b>			
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	30.00	27.00	20.00
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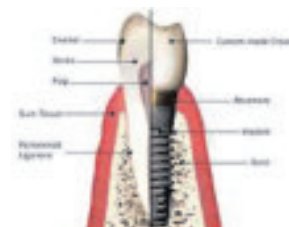
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## NEWS

# CS gas used on man

A WALSALL man, who had to be hit with a baton and sprayed with CS gas after he lunged at a police officer with a knife, has been spared a prison sentence.

Andrew Pearson wielded the knife over his head during the incident where he lived in Cobden Street, Palfrey, Walsall.

Mr Mark Rees, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court that police were

called to deal with an incident involving Pearson and his girlfriend, Pearson, of Dickinson Avenue, maintained he took the knife to injure himself. He said he had been drinking heavily and was under "emotional distress".

Pearson admitted affray and assault, having punched his partner, and was put on supervision for a year.

# Pop star Jessie J in Becky castle surprise

by Leon Burakowski

TOP pop star Jessie J had a surprise for her fans at Warwick Castle when she invited Bewdley teenager Becky Hill on stage to duet with her in front of the 20,000-strong crowd.

London girl Jessie had spotted the Wyre Forest barmaid in the front row of her Summer Sounds gig in the castle grounds and insisted that security clear a way for the bubbly blonde pub singer to join her on stage for her biggest hit Price Tag as the 90-minute set reached a crescendo.

But both chart-topper Jessie and her protegee Becky, who she coached to the finals of TV talent show The Voice, forgot the lyrics in the excitement and had to start the song over again.

"Oh my God. You do this every day. I want to do what you do," gushed sixth former Becky, who was shaking with excitement and fear. "I want to sing in front of 20,000 people. This is unbelievable."

"You are love, look at that crowd!" replied the 24-year-old pop icon.

The crowd had been warmed up by three acts, Gary Barlow's 17-year-old starlet A\*M\*E, who came across as a sassy junior version of Jamelia; classy bluesy singer-songwriter Josh Osho, who perhaps appealed to the mums and dads more than the teens; and Lawson, the Scouse answer to McFly.

But the gig, which failed to be dampened by one brief shower, hit top gear when Jessie J exploded onto the stage in her skin-tight catsuit. It was the sort of outfit no one has dared wear since Cher's heyday. And, of

course, she was sporting her famous black bobbed hairstyle. She opened in high kicking fashion with her raunchy first hit Do It Like A Dude, strutting and striking poses for the cameras transmitting to huge video screens flanking the stage.

Jessie J, who certainly likes to chat between songs, told us that she had flown in to England from a gig in Switzerland and had foregone her soundcheck to get a couple of precious hours' sleep. But the sound was perfect and she was in impressively good voice.

Early highlights included Stand Up, Rainbow and Abracadabra, dedicated to a couple getting married at the hotel where she was staying.

### Tears

She dedicated Who You Are to an unnamed friend whose birthday was on Friday the 13th.

"This is for someone who helped me who I am today," she said, apparently fighting back tears. "I'm not saying who. Some things have got to stay personal."

The down-to-earth star was happy to chat with fans between songs, sometimes paused to take a sip from a mug of tea and even obligingly wore a red bobble hat thrown onto the stage.

After being reunited with Becky, she brought the show to a big finish with Laserlight and her pop classic Domino.

There was no time left for an encore as fireworks lit up the sky and Jessie J left the Warwick thousands with big smiles on their faces.

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# What's On!

## Double act's play cancelled

COMEDY duo Hale and Pace have cancelled their new play at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre due to poor ticket sales.

Dry Rot was due to run from July 23 until July 28. But bosses admitted sales had been poor, blaming the recession as well as major public spectacles such as the Olympics and Jubilee for people staying at home.

The rest of the national tour of the show has also been cancelled.

The Grand confirmed it had managed to secure a last-minute replacement show, in the form of psychological comedy-thriller Haunted, but was also offering refunds for the cancelled show.

## Learn to dance to help hospice

PEOPLE are being invited to strut their stuff on the dancefloor to raise money for a hospice in Walsall.

They can sign up for 11 weekly training sessions in preparation for a Strictly Come Learn to Dance final in Cannock on November 3, in support of St Giles Walsall Hospice, in Goscoe Lane. The training sessions start on August 12 at Pye Green Community Centre.

## Street ahead

AN exhibition exploring the world we live in launches at Walsall's New Art Gallery tomorrow (Friday, July 20). Called Street, it will be on display until September 15.

# You'll have the time of your life with this Dirty delight

**Dirty Dancing, Birmingham Hippodrome**  
**FROM the audience reaction Baby and crew certainly did give them the time of their lives.**

The packed Hippodrome came alive to the music and incredible choreography of Dirty Dancing which is due to run at the theatre until late summer. This is definitely one not to miss. The standing ovation at the end said it all.

The energetic cast took us back to the summer of 1963, complete with corny jokes and the wonderful songs.

## Hayes times comedy to perfection

**You're Only Young Twice, Wolverhampton Grand**  
**THE Ian Dickens Productions Summer Play Season** continued with this madcap comedy, starring the former 'Gunner Gloria Beaumont' himself, Melvyn Hayes.

Ron Aldridge's farce is simply the tale of an elderly widower who acts like a rebellious teenager, to the despair of his daughter and son-in-law, following the death of his beloved wife.

Hayes was certainly the highlight of the cast, playing his role to perfection with natural comedic timing.

Alison Norton

The story is a bit predictable as Baby transforms from having two left feet to near perfect dancing with her holiday love, the dance teacher, but it has a wonderful feelgood factor and everyone lapped it up.

The dancing was superb, no more so than from Johnny (Paul-Michael Jones) who has represented England as a Latin American and ballroom dancer, who teamed up on stage with Penny (Nicky Griffiths) to teach dancing to the holiday-makers at Kellerman's.

Jill Winternitz was superb as Frances 'Baby' Houseman, who is literally swept off her feet by the dance teacher. The audience were also swept along with the romance when Johnny uttered those words made famous by Patrick Swayze in the film: "Nobody puts Baby in the corner".

Sue Attwater



The world's her stage - Meera Syal stars in Much Ado About Nothing at Stratford

## It's much ado for Meera

WOLVERHAMPTON-born actress and comedienne Meera Syal is making her Royal Shakespeare Company debut this summer as the feisty Beatrice in Much Ado About Nothing.

The Essington-raised former star of Goodness Gracious Me and The Kumars at No 42 will lead an Asian cast as Shakespeare's story of love and deceit is transported to India. The RSC promises audiences at the Courtyard Theatre in Stratford will make their passage to India as soon as they arrive at the theatre with awnings, street stalls and Asian music.

Former Birmingham Rep director Iqbal Khan's production of the romantic comedy runs from July 26 to September 15, and then goes to London's West End.

## Coup as town gets Hirst art

WORKS by internationally renowned British artist Damien Hirst - famous for his shark immersed in formaldehyde will and a £50 million diamond-encrusted skull - will go on show at The New Art Gallery Walsall for a year from October.

Art gallery bosses say it is a major coup for the borough and will attract visitors from across the globe, boosting tourism and local businesses.

Walsall was selected to present the first year-long display of key works by Hirst as part of the Artist Room national tour. It will include Away from the Flock - a lamb suspended in a tank of formaldehyde.

## Murder, mystery and Elvis Presley

A MURDER mystery evening will be held in Walsall tomorrow (Friday, July 20) as part of an annual Elvis Presley convention.

The event will be held at Aldridge Social Club, in High Street, from 7.15pm. Tickets cost £5.

For more information send an email to gail.ashmore@hotmail.com or call 07949 358814.

## Senior sounds

WALSALL Senior Citizens Orchestra will perform at Leamore's Forest Arts Centre on August 2.

The event starts at 2pm and tickets cost £1 on the door.

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## What's On!

## SATURDAY'S TV 21.07.12

## CHOICE



Davina McCall

## The Million Pound Drop Channel 4, 7.10pm

Over the next four weeks, this quiz show will be paying its own tribute to our summer of sport by inviting celebrities and noted athletes to compete for the chance to raise as much money as possible for Paralympic and disability-related charities. And if across each weekend, the couples can save enough bundles of money from the Drop, they'll unlock an extra cash bonus. So, the pressure is really on this week's pairs, who include Radio 1 mates Sara Cox and Aled Hayden Jones, actress Natalie Cassidy and X Factor contestant Frankie Cocozza.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Live Golf: The Open Championship. **12.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **12.10** Live Golf: The Open Championship.

**6.10** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

**6.30** Film: *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*. (1989) Action adventure sequel, starring Harrison Ford and Sean Connery.

**8.25** The National Lottery: Secret Fortune. Siblings Zoe and Ronnie compete in the high-tension quiz show presented by Nick Knowles, hoping to win enough money to take their mother on a trip to Las Vegas.

**9.20** Casualty. Part one of two. Locals hold a vigil for the man who died after being Tasered by the police, only for violence to break out – with Scarlett and Lloyd right in the thick of things. Concludes tomorrow.

**10.10** BBC News; Weather.

**10.30** Mrs Brown's Boys. Newlyweds Dermot and Maria argue. Last in the series. (R)

**11.00** Live at the Apollo. Micky Flanagan introduces Jason Byrne and Seann Walsh; (R) National Lottery Update.

**11.45** Film: *Grosse Pointe Blank*. (1997) A hitman runs into trouble when he tries to combine his latest assassination job with a trip home for a school reunion. Black comedy drama, starring John Cusack.

**1.25** Weather. **1.30** Stan Zone: Faster, Higher, Stronger. The history of the Olympic Games. (R)

**2.30** Usain Bolt: The Fastest Man Alive. (R) **3.30** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.00** CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **12.05** Film: *Jubal*. (1956) Western, starring Glenn Ford and the late Ernest Borgnine. **1.45** Show Me the Money. **2.30** Racing from Ascot. Clare Balding presents live coverage of today's meeting, including the 4.35 King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes (1m 4f). Plus, races at 2.45, 3.20 and 3.55. **5.00** Formula 1: German Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.

**6.10** Live Golf: The Open Championship. Hazel Irvine presents concluding coverage of the third day's play at Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club, where the remaining players on the course complete their penultimate rounds. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

**8.00** The Hollow Crown – Henry V. Tom Hiddleston, John Hurt, Paterson Joseph and Anton Lesser star in this adaptation of Shakespeare's play about the 15th-century king's war with France. Last in the series.

**10.15** QI. Guests Rob Brydon, Sandi Toksvig, Fred MacAulay and regular panellist Alan Davies join host Stephen Fry, who asks questions on the topic of highs and lows. (R)

**10.45** TOP2. Featuring archive performances by acts including Culture Club, Deep Purple, the Human League, the Sex Pistols, Bob Marley and the Wailers, and Voice of the Beehive. (R)

**11.45** Film: *Kicks*. (2009) Comedy drama, with Kerrie Hayes, Nichola Burley, Jamie Doyle and Gary Cargill.

**1.05** BBC News. **3.35** Close.

## ITV1

**6.00** CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **8.25** Saturday Cookbook. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20** The Real Housewives of New York City. **12.15** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** Film: *Escape to Victory*. (1981)

**2.35** Film: *The Man with the Golden Gun*. (1974) **5.00** Regional Programme: Weather. **5.10** ITV News; Weather. **5.25** Primeval.

**6.30** You've Been Framed. Extreme! Harry Hill narrates a selection of some of the most extreme clips filmed by viewers, featuring various trampolines, a bike rider enduring an uncomfortable landing. (R)

**7.30** The Cube. Phillip Schofield invites world champion hurdler Dai Greene and former Olympic javelin thrower Fatima Whitbread to take on a series of fiendishly difficult challenges in the cube.

**8.35** TV's Biggest Blockbusters. The most watched programmes in British television history, revealing the top 10 shows in four categories – entertainment, live events, drama & soaps, and comedy.

**10.30** ITV News; Weather.

**10.45** Mad Mad World. With Peter Andre, Vinnie Jones and Christine Bleakley.

**11.30** Take Me Out. A martial-arts champion, a soul singer, a car salesman and a street dancer try to impress 30 single women, and last week's couples go on their dates. (R)

**12.35** The Store: ITV News Headlines. **2.40** In Plain Sight. (R)

**3.25** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.00** Channel 4 Presents – London 2012: Elite Simmonds – Part III. The swimmer finishes her preparations for the Paralympics. (R) **6.05** Sali Mali. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** That Paralympic Show. (R) **7.00** British Formula Ford Championship. **7.25** The Grid. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** T4: Ibiza Rocks. Ed Sheeran. (R) **9.10** T4: The Dark Knight Rises: T4 Movie Special. **9.40** T4: New Girl. (R) **10.15** T4: Revenge. **11.15** T4: Suburgatory. **11.45** T4: Summer Daze. **12.20** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.55** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.20** The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** Channel 4 Racing. **3.55** Channel 4 Presents: London 2012 – Hannah Cockcroft Part III. (R)

**4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.05** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)

**6.10** Come Dine with Me. Hairdresser Mel Steel hosts the final party in Hertfordshire. (R)

**6.35** Channel 4 News.

**7.05** Thought.tv. The role of father figures in modern society.

**7.10** The Million Pound Drop. Natalie Cassidy and Frankie Cocozza, Sara Cox and Aled Hayden Jones, and Jonathan Edwards and Colin Jackson work in pairs to win money for charity.

**9.00** Film: *Date Night*. (2010) Premiere. Comedy, starring Tina Fey and Steve Carell.

**10.45** Film: *Another 48 Hrs*. (1990) Comedy thriller sequel, starring Eddie Murphy and Nick Nolte.

**12.40** The Million Pound Drop. (R) **2.15** Film: *Gentlemen Broncos*. (2009) **3.45** St Elsewhere. (R) **4.35** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.30** Countdown. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.00** Zoo Days. (R) **10.05** How Do They Do It? (R) **10.35** Big Brother: The Eviction. (R) **11.35** Film: *Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol*. (1987) **1.20** Film: *Adventures in Babysitting*. (1987) **3.15** Film: *Fly Away Home*. (1996) **5.20** Film: *Stone Cold*. (2005)

**7.00** Cricket on 5. England v South Africa. Mark Nicholas presents highlights from the third day of the First Test at the Oval.

**8.00** 5 News Weekend.

**8.05** NCIS. New evidence reveals the port-to-port killer has infiltrated the agency and plans to murder a member of the NCIS team, prompting Gibbs to seek the help of former mentor Mike Franks. (R)

**9.10** Big Brother. Highlights of the most recent goings-on, including the latest eviction from the housemates' point of view.

**10.10** CSI: Miami. New series. The final season of the police drama begins with a wounded Horatio racing to save Natalia from drowning, before setting a trap for the man who tried to kill them.

**11.05** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. A man dies from overeating and it emerges he had a rare genetic disorder. Meanwhile, a couple going through an acrimonious divorce are seemingly killed by their own dog. (R)

**12.05** SuperCasino. **4.00** HouseBusters. (R) **4.25** Great Scientists. (R) **4.50** Channel 5 News. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00** The Real Hustle: New Recruits  
**7.30** Top Gear. **8.30** Film: *Shrek*. (2001) **9.55** Russell Howard's Good News **10.25** Live at the Electric **10.55** Family Guy **11.40** American Dad!

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** The Blue Planet **8.00** BBC Proms 2012. The West-Eastern Divan Orchestra perform Beethoven's Symphonies Nos 3 and 4. **10.10** Film: *Ajami* (2009)

**ITV2**  
**2.10** America's Got Talent **4.50** Film: *Free Willy 3: The Rescue*. (1997) **7.45** Film: *The Mummy*. (1999) Action adventure, starring Brendan Fraser. **9.00** Film: *Casino Royale* (2006)

**ITV3**  
**3.35** Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four **5.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Lewis **11.00** Film: *Mystic River* (2003)

**ITV4**  
**2.00** Live Cycling: Tour de France. Stage 19 from Bonneval to Chartres. **5.00** Goodwood Festival of Speed **6.00** 20 Football Games That Shook the World **7.00** Cycling: Tour de France Highlights **8.00** Film: *Space Cowboys* (2000) **10.30** Film: *Training Day* (2001)

**E4**  
**3.10** Desperate Housewives **4.05** Revenge **5.05** How I Met Your Mother **6.05** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** Rules of Engagement **8.30** Suburgatory **9.00** Derrin Brown: Evening of Wonders **10.40** The Big Bang Theory **11.35** The Midnight Beast

**Film4**  
**3.15** Carry On Spying (1964) **5.00** The Mistress of Spices (2005) **6.55** Footloose (1984) **9.00** The Happening (2008) **10.45** Aliens (1986)

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## What's On!

## SUNDAY'S TV 22.07.12

## CHOICE



Kenneth Branagh

## Wallander

BBC1, 9pm

It's the final edition of this series, but don't panic – a fourth run will be made, although Kenneth Branagh claims it will be the last. Here, Wallander is disturbed by a visit from Linda's childhood friend Anna Westin late at night. She's a troubled soul who then disappears, and it isn't until later that the detective discovers a link between her and an elderly murder victim whose badly burned body has been found in a shallow grave. Linda returns to Ystad to help her father with the investigation. They worry that Anna may become the latest victim of a religious fanatic.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Country Tracks. (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.00** BBC News. **12.05** Bargain Hunt. (R) **12.35** Live Golf: The Open Championship.

**7.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

**7.15** Countryfile. Matt Baker learns about the Victorian doctor whose Wenlock Olympian Games inspired the modern Olympics and Adam Henson visits a Lancashire farm where the dairy cows milk themselves. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

**8.10** Casualty. Part two of two. As the vigil descends into a full-scale riot, Jordan performs life-saving surgery on girlfriend Yvonne, while Scarlett faces the police. Last in the series.

**9.00** Wallander. The detective investigates a connection between an elderly murder victim and the disappearance of one of Linda's childhood friends. Kenneth Branagh stars. Last in the series.

**10.30** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

**10.55** John Bishop's Britain. The comedian tackles the subject of friends.

**11.40** Formula 1: German Grand Prix Highlights. Lee McKenzie presents action from the 10th round of the season, which was staged at the Hockenheimring for the first time since 2010. (R)

**1.10** Weather. **1.15** Sign Zone: Faster, Higher, Stronger. (R) **2.15** Holby City. (R) **3.15** Britain's Lost Routes with Griff Rhys Jones. (R) **4.15** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.00** CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **10.00** Raymond Blanc: The Very Hungry Frenchman. (R) **11.00** Live Golf: The Open Championship. **12.35** Film: Jack. (1996) **2.25** Show Me the Monet. **3.10** Escape to the Country. **3.55** Flog It! (R) **4.55** Songs of Praise. **5.30** Formula 1: German Grand Prix Highlights.

**7.00** Secrets of Our Living Planet. Chris Packham travels around the globe to reveal the secrets of watery habitats, examining how plankton influence atmosphere and climate. Last in the series. (R)

**8.00** Engineering Giants: Gas Rig Strip-Down. Tom Wrighlesworth and Rob Bell follow each step of the process as a gas platform is pulled from the North Sea and taken to Newcastle to be broken apart and recycled.

**9.00** World's Most Dangerous Roads. Hugh Dennis and David Baddiel travel along more than 1,200 miles of hazardous roads in Ethiopia on a journey to Aksum, the country's holiest place. Last in the series.

**10.00** Mock the Week – Again. Another chance to see an edition of the comedy show. Hosted by Dara Ó Briain, with guests joining the panel to poke fun at the news. (R)

**10.30** Line of Duty. Fleming resolves to salvage the anti-corruption investigation and goes to worrying lengths to earn Gates' trust – but arouses Morton's suspicions in the process. (R)

**11.30** Twenty Twelve. Ian discovers Daniel has been offered a new job. (R)

**12.00** Film: Sparkle. (2006) **1.40** BBC News. **4.15** Close.

## ITV1

**6.00** CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **8.30** Dinner Date. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** House Gift. (R) **10.25** There's No Taste Like Home. (R) **11.25** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **1.35** Murder. She Wrote. (R) **2.35** TV's Biggest Blockbusters. (R) **4.25** Doc Martin. (R) **5.25** The Chase. (R)

**6.25** Regional Programme; Weather.

**6.40** ITV News; Weather.

**7.00** Britain's Secret Treasures. Michael Buerk and Bettany Hughes reveal the top 10 historical artefacts discovered by the public, including Viking treasure and a 3,500-year-old gold cup. Last in the series.

**8.00** Dancing on Ice Goes Gold. Olympic medalists Colin Jackson, Olga Korbut, Tessa Sanderson, Pippa Wilson, Jamie Baulch, Steve Williams and Gail Emms each perform an ice-skating routine for the show's judges.

**10.00** ITV News at Ten; Weather.

**10.20** Bomber Command. John Sergeant pays tribute to the aircrews of RAF Bomber Command who died serving their country and tells the stories of some of the surviving members. (R)

**11.15** Premiership Rugby Sevens Series. Peter Richards presents action from the Group B fixtures at Edgeley Park, with Leicester Tigers, London Welsh, Northampton Saints and Sale Sharks the sides involved.

**12.15** The Store. Home shopping; ITV News Headlines. **2.15** Golden Balls. (R) **3.05** Motorsport UK. **3.55** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.15** Ironman 2012. **6.40** Canary Wharf Triathlon. **7.05** The Great Swim Series. **8.00** Will & Grace. (R) **8.25** Will & Grace. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.25** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie Does Marakech. (R) **1.35** How to Cook Like Heston. (R) **2.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **3.00** The Simpsons. (R) **3.35** The Simpsons. (R) **4.05** Deal or No Deal. **5.05** Channel 4 Presents: London 2012 – Will Bayley Part III. (R) **5.10** Channel 4 News. **5.40** 4thought.tv. **5.45** Film: Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief. (2010) Premiere. Fantasy adventure, starring Logan Lerman.

**8.00** Come Dine with Me. Four contestants host dinner parties in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, featuring laddish banter, sports day-themed entertainment and a starter of squirrel that causes a stir.

**9.00** The Gypsy Girls. The pressure of getting her trainees up to speed forces Thelma Madine to take time off work. However, chaos ensues in her absence and a lie that could destroy the scheme is exposed.

**10.00** Film: Role Models. (2008) After a brush with the law, two irresponsible men have to look after troubled kids as community service. Comedy, with Paul Rudd, Sean William Scott and Christopher Mintz-Plasse.

**11.55** Film: Internal Affairs. (1990) Crime thriller, starring Richard Gere, Andy Garcia and Laurie Metcalf.

**2.00** A Family Portrait. (R) **2.05** Camelot. (R) **3.00** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.10** Channel 4 Presents: London 2012 – David Clarke Pt III. (R) **5.15** Deal or No Deal. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowerbuds. (R) **6.25** City of Friends. (R) **6.35** Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) **6.50** Castle Farm. (R) **6.55** Abby's Flying Fairy School. **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Family! (R) **7.35** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.50** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** The Mr Men Show. (R) **9.25** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Jelly Jam. (R) **10.00** Monkey Life. (R) **10.25** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **11.25** Big Brother. (R) **12.25** Film: Krull. (1983) **2.55** Film: Clash of the Titans. (1981) **5.15** Film: Pocahontas. (1995)

**6.55** 5 News Weekend.

**7.00** Cricket on 5. England v South Africa. Mark Nicholas presents highlights of the fourth day of the First Test at the Oval, as the three-match series continued.

**8.00** Once Upon a Time. Emma races to find Mary Margaret before Regina discovers she is missing – but is taken hostage by a man desperate to return to the land of fairy tales.

**9.00** Big Brother. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

**10.00** Film: Blood Work. (2002) Crime thriller, directed by and starring Clint Eastwood.

**12.00** World's Fastest Train. (R) **1.00** SuperCasino. **4.05** Sons of Anarchy. **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00** Olympics' Most Amazing Moments **9.00** Girl Power: Going for Gold **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** American Dad! **11.30** Snog, Marry, Avoid?

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** London: A Tale of Two Cities with Dan Cruickshank **8.00** The Bridges That Built London with Dan Cruickshank **9.00** Film: Amadeus: The Director's Cut (1984) **11.50** Teenage Kicks: The Search for Sophistication

**ITV2**  
**3.25** Film: Cool Runnings (1993) **5.25** Film: King Kong (2005) **9.00** Benidorm **10.00** The Only Way is Essex **10.45** Film: Bridget Jones's Diary (2001)

**ITV3**  
**3.40** Film: Jesus Christ Superstar (1973) **5.50** Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00** A Touch of Frost **11.10** Wire in the Blood

**ITV4**  
**2.00** Live Cycling: Tour de France. **5.00** Minder **6.00** The Sweeney **7.00** Cycling: Tour de France Highlights **8.00** Premiership Rugby Sevens Series **9.00** Film: Tightrope (1984) **11.20** Film: Balls of Fury (2007)

**E4**  
**3.10** Glee **4.10** New Girl **4.40** Suburgatory **5.10** The Big Bang Theory **6.05** Revenge **7.05** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: Crocodile Dundee II (1988) **10.10** Film: Sleeping with the Enemy (1991)

**Film4**  
**3.20** The Last Mimzy (2007) **5.15** Brief Encounter (1945) **7.00** Joe Wright on David Lean **7.05** Anna Karenina Clip Exclusive **7.15** Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer (2007) **9.00** The Hunt for Red October (1990) **11.40** Viva Rival (2010)

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## Film Choices

### MONDAY

#### The Woods, Channel 5, 10.55pm

A teenager is packed off to an isolated girls' boarding school by her neglectful parents. The troubled girl discovers a number of students have disappeared without trace, and as she investigates it becomes apparent something sinister is lurking in the nearby woodlands and preying on the pupils. Horror, starring Patricia Clarkson and Bruce Campbell. (2006)

#### A Running Jump, Channel 4, 11.05pm

A man's attempt to buy a second-hand car in London's East End becomes surprisingly complicated when he crosses paths with a selection of colourful characters, including a rogue trader and his unusual family. Mike Leigh's short comedy, commissioned for the London 2012 festival, starring Eddie Marsan. (2012)

### TUESDAY

#### Green Street, ITV1, 10.50pm

An American journalism student moves to London to live with his sister after getting kicked out of Harvard. After attending a football match with his brother-in-law, he is so impressed by the banter and camaraderie of a bunch of hooligans known as the Green Street Elite, who pin their allegiance to West Ham United, that he decides to join them. Drama, starring Elijah Wood. (2005)



Green Street, Tuesday, ITV1, 10.50pm

### WEDNESDAY

#### A Clockwork Orange, ITV1, 10.50pm

Sadistic young gang leader Alex leads a carefree life indulging his love of rape, violence and classical music. When he is finally arrested, he is subjected to a sinister form of aversion therapy that brainwashes him into being physically unable to use violence. Drama, starring Malcolm McDowell. (1971)

### THURSDAY

#### Millions, BBC1, 11.35pm

A bag of stolen money falls from the sky, and wide-eyed youngster Damian thinks it is a gift from God. However, his level-headed brother realises they must race against time to spend the loot before the country switches to the Euro and a robber on their tail catches up with them. Comedy drama, starring Alex Etel. (2004)

### FRIDAY

#### The Shipping News, BBC2, 11.10pm

A man struggling to rebuild his life after the death of his emotionally distant wife moves to a small town with his daughter and estranged aunt, where he undergoes a profound journey of self-discovery, finding support and comfort in the local community. Drama, starring Kevin Spacey and Julianne Moore. (2001)

## Pick of the Week

# London is on track for a fantastic event

If the comedian Bill Bailey is to be believed, the Olympics opening ceremony is going to be the most exciting cringe-fest in our history. He foresees an "inflatable Churchill bobbing down the Thames" and a "huge animatronic Yorkshire pudding" in the middle of Wembley Stadium. And that's before the ribbon-cutting Boris Johnson is allowed access to scissors.

Go on, admit it, you wouldn't be surprised if those things were actually involved, would you? After all, we have no real idea what to expect when the eyes of the world turn upon us. All we can hope is that it isn't like our childhood backyard fireworks displays, when we got all worked up and excited, only for the rock to go "pfft" and then go out.

But let's not be cynical or pessimistic. Let's get enthusiastic. This could be the greatest show on earth, and given that Oscar-winner Danny Boyle is behind the whole thing, it will at least be ambitious and grand in scope.

All we really know is that his vision will be unlike anything we've ever seen before. For a start, the Olympic Stadium will be transformed into the "British countryside". A cast of 10,000 volunteers will help recreate country scenes, against a backdrop featuring farmyard animals and landmarks.

And the opening scene of the £27m ceremony will be called "Green and Pleasant", according to Boyle. He added the show would create "a picture of ourselves as a nation."

"The best way to tell that story is through working with real people," said Boyle, who has even reserved a role for NHS nurses in proceedings.

The set will feature meadows, fields and rivers, with families taking picnics, people playing sports on the village green and farmers tilling the soil.

Real farmyard animals will be grazing in the "countryside", with a menagerie of 70 sheep, 12 horses, three cows, two goats, 10 chickens, 10 ducks, nine geese and three sheepdogs.

One billion people worldwide are expected to watch the opening ceremony.

The world's largest "harmonically-tuned" bell, weighing 23 tonnes and measuring 2m tall x 3m wide, will ring inside the Stadium to start the Shakespeare-inspired spectacle, featuring 900 children from the six Games host boroughs.

We also know that the panorama also includes two mosh-pits, representing the Glastonbury festival and the Last Night of the Proms, while the music – if recent reports are to be believed – is an eclectic selection ranging from the Beatles to the Monty Python theme tune. Yep, there's that cringe factor rearing its head again!

The performance is followed by the athletes' parade, in which more than 200 countries are represented. Then the Queen will carry out the official opening, before the arrival of the Olympic flame, when the identity of the final torchbearer will be revealed.

On your marks, get set, go!



Sue Barker is among the presenters in Olympics 2012 Opening Ceremony, Friday, BBC1, 9pm

## Best of the Rest

### MONDAY

#### Absolutely Fabulous BBC1, 9.30pm

Patsy and Edina are unlikely representatives for London 2012 – their idea of exercise is wielding another another bottle of champagne. But as Joanna Lumley and Jennifer Saunders return for the last of three specials celebrating Ab Fab's 20th anniversary, it seems even chain-smoking, wine-swilling fashionistas aren't immune from Olympic fever. Admittedly, Eddy is a bit vague on when the Games actually start, but she's still managed to cash in by renting out her home to a Hollywood A-lister – which is all the more impressive given that she's still living there along with her mum (Jane Whitfield), Saffron (Julia Sawalha) and Bubble (Jane Horrocks).

### TUESDAY

#### Jon Richardson: A Little Bit OCD Channel 4, 10pm

Have you ever gone back to the house to double-check you really did lock the front door, and then joked it was down to your obsessive compulsive disorder? And if so, did you then wonder why this particular form of illness has somehow become a laughing matter? It's a subject that's been bothering Jon Richardson, who has mined his own quest for control and obsessive nature in his book, It's Not Me, It's You. But while some fans and armchair psychiatrists may have been quick to diagnose him with OCD, Richardson is keen to learn more about what the term actually means and why we feel comfortable bandying it around so casually.

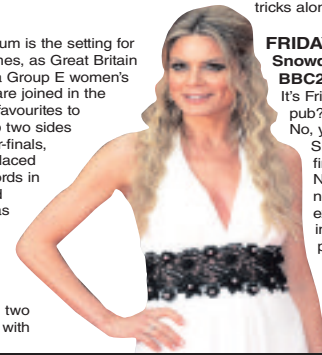
### Turn Back Time – The Family BBC1, 9pm

They say that if you remember the Sixties, you probably weren't there. If you remember the Seventies, however, you probably see a trained counsellor once a week. In the last episode of the documentary-cum-reality show, Lisa Rhodes moves in with her two sons, joining the other parents for whom the 70s are all about nostalgia. As the families pull together as a community for the final decade, it's time for them to decide – when was the golden era for the family?

### WEDNESDAY

#### Olympics 2012 BBC1, 3.30pm

Cardiff's Millennium Stadium is the setting for the first action of the Games, as Great Britain take on New Zealand in a Group E women's football clash. The sides are joined in the group by Cameroon and favourites to qualify Brazil, with the top two sides progressing to the quarter-finals, along with the two third-placed nations with the best records in the three groups. England manager Hope Powell was given the job of coaching Great Britain and she largely kept faith with the players she is most familiar with, selecting 16 English players alongside two Scots in her squad of 18, with Kelly Smith among those to be picked.



The Big Sports Quiz – Boys v Girls, Thursday, ITV1, 9pm

### THURSDAY

#### The Big Sports Quiz – Boys v Girls ITV1, 9pm

Previous episodes of The Big Quiz have seen the cast of Coronation Street battle their Emmerdale counterparts. Now it's time for sports personalities to take part. Two teams – captained by Paddy McGuinness and Charlotte Jackson (pictured) – will feature the likes of England goalkeeper Joe Hart, runner Kriss Akabusi, Olympic gold medalist Amy Hazel, swimmers Mark Foster and Karen Pickering, and heptathlete Louise Hazel. Physical and mental challenges abound – and there may be some dirty tricks along the way ... Stephen Mulhern hosts.

### FRIDAY

#### Snowdonia – A Year in the Wild BBC2, 9pm

It's Friday night. You've got options. Hit the pub? See a movie? Take the family bowling? No, you want to stay home and watch Snowdonia: A Year in the Wild. This is the first of three films exploring life in Britain's National Parks. It tells how Snowdonia in north Wales is a landscape formed by extinct volcanoes, and is home to creatures including otters, hen harriers and peregrine falcons. See – bet you didn't know that, did you? And if you did, you're probably not the sort of person with many options of a Friday night anyway. The programme explores the area over the course of a year through the eyes of people who live and work there.

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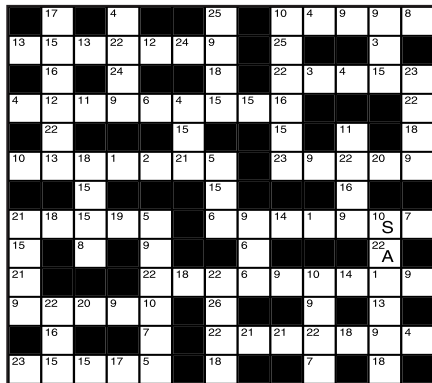
## What's On!

## Brain Gym

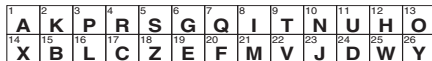
No.178

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



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**QUICK CROSSWORDS**  
**CODEWORD** **SUDOKU**  
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**WORD SEARCH**  
**NUMBER CRUNCH**

SEARCH: DAILY EXPRESS PUZZLES On the iPhone, iPod Touch &amp; iPad

## SEVEN GREAT GAMES IN ONE!



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IN ONE HANDY APP!

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

## Cryptic Clues:

## Across

7. Here you see what makes crowds so cruel (9,4)
8. Going in for charm (8)
9. Craft lacking a prow? (4)
10. Small pigs making a distant noise (6)
12. Such games are not openly played (6)
14. It has no meaning (6)
16. Alliance has a complaint against the French (6)
18. One of rank, perhaps (4)
20. An apartment, indeed, needs air (8)
22. Softening the blow? (7,1,5)

## Down

1. Every plot, by the way, will have one (8)
2. He takes more than normal interest in his work (6)
3. This singer, it's said, never gives an encore (4)
4. You do what you like with it (4,4)
5. Got a point orchestrated (6)
6. Skin colour? (4)
11. Hard-boiled words of commendation (4,4)
13. Clue mixed with open abundance (8)
15. Result of eaves-dropping in winter? (6)
17. You can count on it (6)
19. Heartless about what adjacent properties do (4)
21. Dread a change in the fare (4)

## Quick Clues:

## Across

7. Blameworthy (13)
8. Habituate (8)
9. Band of criminals (4)
10. Ramble (6)
12. Bend (6)
14. Rivulet (6)
16. Temporary resident (6)
18. Heroic (4)
20. Induce (8)
22. Understanding (13)

## Down

1. Trader (8)
2. Land (6)
3. Closed (4)
4. Hostile (8)
5. Tarry (6)
6. Scheme (4)
11. Recall (8)
13. Choice by vote (8)
15. Get away (6)
17. Strip (6)
19. Meagre (4)
21. Row (4)

## Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:  
The letter represented by the question mark is B. Cabinet, wardrobe, cupboard, all items of furniture.

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SEARCH: DAILY EXPRESS PUZZLES  
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## Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS &gt;

2	8	3	6	9	4	5	1	7
1	4	6	7	8	5	9	2	3
5	7	9	3	2	1	4	6	8
6	1	4	2	5	6	7	3	9
7	6	5	1	3	9	2	8	4
3	9	2	8	4	7	6	5	1
4	5	6	5	7	2	1	9	8
9	5	1	4	6	8	3	7	2
6	2	7	9	1	3	8	4	5

1	4			5			7	
		3	7				6	
9					8	3		1
		2		3	1		8	
4				6				
	6		4			9		3
3		7	8				1	4
	1		3		5	2	9	
	8			4				

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The Mayfield



The Shipley



The Leybourne



The Radley





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## View a deceptively spacious family home

**INTERNAL inspection is recommended to appreciate the size of this deceptively spacious four bedroom detached house in Cheslyn Hay, which is on the market priced at £220,000.**

The property briefly comprises of guest WC, study, lounge/dining room, kitchen, conservatory, four bedrooms – the master with en-suite – and family bathroom, and also has central heating and double glazing, garage, paved driveway and substantial rear garden.

On the ground floor the lounge, 15ft 7in by 10ft 8in, has a feature fireplace and door to the dining conservatory measuring 15ft 6in by 9ft 6in and with a patio door to the rear garden.

The kitchen, 12ft 9in by 7ft 9in, has a range of wall and base mounted units, worktops with stainless steel sink and drainer, gas cooker point and space for appliances while the utility has wall and base units with worktop incorporating stainless steel sink and drainer and space and plumbing for appliances, and there is also a study measuring 13ft 5in by 6ft 10in.

On the first floor bedroom one has an en-suite with WC, pedestal wash hand basin, shower cubicle and panel bath and there are three more bedrooms and a bathroom with WC, wash hand basin, panel bath and double shower cubicle.

Outside to the front is a block paved driveway providing off road parking leading to the garage while to the rear is a garden mainly laid to lawn with decked patio area and mature trees and shrubs.

For further information the agent Goodchilds on 01922 745 512.



Goodchilds is marketing 26 Sutherland Road, a spacious family home in Cheslyn Hay



Berriman Eaton is marketing the sale of Planks Lane located in the sought after area of Wombourne

## An extended semi is on the market for £225,000

AN EXTENDED three-bedroom semi-detached property in Wombourne is on the market based on offers around £225,000.

The house, in Planks Lane, Wombourne, has uPVC double glazing and gas central heating the house has a breakfast kitchen and dining room/family room with downstairs cloakroom/WC, and on the first floor three double bedrooms and a re-fitted bathroom with free standing bath.

On the ground floor is an entrance

porch, entrance hall with built-in cupboards and cloakroom with white suite comprising WC and wash hand basin, and a lounge measuring 15ft 8in by 12ft with a feature fireplace.

The extended breakfast kitchen, 16ft 10in by 10ft 9in, has built-in base cupboards and drawers, complementary worktops, roof lights, wooden floors and space for range-style cooker with cooker hood over, while the dining room/family room – 20ft 3in by 10ft – has double doors to the rear garden.

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a bathroom with white suite comprising free standing bath, separate WC and wash hand basin with built-in cupboards.

The front of the property is set back from the road behind a concrete print driveway providing good parking and to the rear a wedge-shaped garden with patio area, ornamental wall beyond and shaped borders with plants and shrubs.

Call 01902 326 366 or visit the [www.berrimaneaton.co.uk/sales website](http://www.berrimaneaton.co.uk/sales website).



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**The Shrewsbury** – four bedroom detached family home with carpets included available from **£199,995**. Other four bedroom homes available from **£204,995**.



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**Willenhall**  
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# Showhomes now on sale in Tipton

**THERE'S a selection of homes now on sale at Taylor Wimpey's brand new Himley View development in Tansey Green, West Midlands, with something to suit a wide range of buyers.**

This eagerly anticipated collection of two, three, four and five-bedroom homes, as well as two-bedroom apartments, is conveniently located off

Tansey Green Road and bordered by unspoilt greenbelt countryside.

The new homes at Himley View combine generous living accommodation with high-quality design and offer great value for money in such a desirable location.

Among the stunning properties available to reserve now are two-

bedroom apartments priced from £114,995, two-bedroom starter homes from only £142,995, plus three and four-bedroom houses from £164,995 and £225,995 respectively.

One of the homes available to reserve now at Himley Green is the three-bedroom 'Hayford' detached house.

Priced from £199,995, this well-appointed home boasts a spacious lounge/dining room opening through French doors to the private rear garden, a contemporary fitted kitchen and a guest cloakroom off the entrance hallway.

All homes at Himley View are completed to a high standard specification, including energy efficient central heating, double glazing and a fitted kitchen with integrated oven, hob and hood.

Taylor Wimpey has a range of helpful homebuyer incentives including help with deposits for first-time buyers and assistance for those with a property to sell. Incentives can be tailored to individual requirements and further details are available from the sales executive.

Alongside the new homes, Himley View will feature acres of open space, while picturesque countryside is located near by.

To find out more about the new homes at Himley View, property-seekers should visit the sales cabin at the development, located off Tansey Green Road, Tansey Green, and open Thursday to Monday 10am to 5pm. Alternatively, the Sales Executive can be contacted on 0845 676 2363.



This artist's impression is typical of new homes on offer at the development



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# An extra dimension to new house buying

AN invaluable new feature has been developed by a house builder that allows potential buyers to see how the inside of their new home might look, with all their furniture already inside it.

Lovell has upgraded its floor plans for the Monarch Park development at Elizabeth Road in Cannock to 3D.

This allows buyers to really visualise the inside of a house and how their ideas for decorating and furnishing their new home might look while the usual 2D floor plans can give buyers an idea of what to expect.

Lorraine Kendrick, regional sales manager for Lovell in the Midlands, says: "The 3D floor plans are such a useful tool for prospective buyers, who can see at a glance the general dimensions of the house and can immediately visualise the ways in which they might use different rooms and move around the house."

"The plans are also great for people who may already have furniture or want to plan which furniture to buy before they actually move in." Lovell has revealed the first designs of its homes for sale at the development, with prices starting at £133,000 for the two-bedroom Knightswood, £142,000 for the two-bedroom, semi-detached Dameswood and £170,000 for the Dukeswood three-bedroom semi-detached home. Buyers who are willing to buy off-plan are rewarded for their vision with their stamp duty paid - and their carpets too.

## Renowned

These opening offers are worth thousands of pounds and make these beautiful homes even better value.

The new development is in an excellent location not only for the renowned landscape and wildlife but also for local shops, amenities, leisure facilities and transport links.

The houses available at Monarch Park will include a number of different designs, ensuring there will be a house style to suit everyone's needs. There will be 2, 3 and 5 bedroom homes available to buy from Lovell.

Monarch Park is part of a wider £17 million house building programme of the Elizabeth Road estate in Cannock. Lovell is working with Waterloo and Cannock Chase Council to create 150 high-quality new homes for rent and sale.

All visitors are welcome to come along between 10am and 5pm (Thursday to Monday) to Monarch Park to discuss the development with Lovell's sales team and pick up a brochure.

Visit Limepit Lane, Cannock WS11 4RE or call the sales advisor Kim Garbett on 01543 877708.



Artist's impression of a house at the new Dameswood development in Cannock

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**£675pcm**



**WALSALL**  
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Central Heating  
Double Glazed  
White Goods  
Garden  
**£450pcm**



**TELFORD**  
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Alarm  
Central Heating  
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**£475pcm**



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Unfurnished Two bedroom flat  
Electric Heating  
Bathroom  
Shower room  
25% Off First Month Only  
**£425pcm**



**WALSALL**  
**ASHDOWN GROVE**  
Unfurnished two bedroom apartment  
Gas central heating  
Double glazing  
Washer/dryer  
Fridge/freezer  
**£450pcm**



**WILLENHALL**  
**VICTORIA STREET**  
Unfurnished Two bedroom Mid-Terraced House  
Central Heating  
Double Glazed  
Fitted kitchen with Hob/Oven  
Bathroom with shower  
**£425pcm**



**WILLENHALL**  
**WALSALL ROAD**  
Unfurnished Modern Mid-Terraced House  
Three Bedroom  
Off Road Parking  
Master Bedroom with Ensuite  
Bathroom with shower  
**£565pcm**



**BILSTON**  
**WELLINGTON ROAD**  
Part-Furnished Studio Flat  
White Goods  
Council tax inclusive of rental  
Water rates inclusive of rental  
Refurbished  
**£425pcm**



**167 Stafford Street Walsall WS2 8EA**





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semi

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semi

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two  
flats

INCOME £20,000 P/A £150,000

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WELLINGTON ROAD



Investment  
Former public house  
Part let

INCOME £14,580 P/A £149,995

**WILLENHALL**  
INVESTMENT



3  
bed  
semi

LET AT £500 PCM £79,995


**BILSTON**  
SLIM AVENUE, BRADLEY



3  
bed  
maisonette

TO LET £500 PCM £49,995


**INVESTMENT**



Office +  
two flats +  
yard and  
outbuilding

INCOME £19,500 P/A £150,000

**WEDNESBURY / DARLASTON**  
WILLENHALL STREET



Investment  
3  
bed  
semi

LET AT £500 PCM £79,995

**WILLENHALL**  
NEWTON HOUSE, GIPSY LANE



Investment  
3  
bed  
detached

LET AT £625 PCM £149,995

**BILSTON**  
ROSEMARY AVENUE



3  
bed  
semi

TO LET £500 PCM £79,995

**BILSTON**  
ACTON GR



Investment  
4  
bed  
detached

LET AT £650 PCM £199,995

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[www.midlandhomes.ltd.uk](http://www.midlandhomes.ltd.uk)

## GARDENING

# Don't hang around when dead-heading

**REGULAR watering and feeding are essential to keep hanging baskets and decorative patio containers looking good.**

Find time to pick over your containers to remove dead flower heads. This will encourage more flowering.

Take extra time deadheading fuchsias or they will produce seed pods the size of grapes using up plenty of plant energy in the process.

Similarly, don't be frightened of cutting back long trailing plant material that is showing bare flowerless patches.

Some trailing petunias, bidens and nasturtiums are inclined to rampage but can be cut back quite hard without harming the plants.

The recent heavy rain has put pay to serious drought. So feeding containers once a week with the hose-end Miracle-Gro Liquefied system is back on the agenda as quick and convenient.

### Excess

Traditionalists can still dissolve the blue crystals in a watering can and wet the compost. But to save water, always fit a drip tray or saucer under the pot. This will allow the compost to suck back any excess water without it running to waste.

A hose-end feeding system allows you to treat a whole garden in just a few minutes.

Just fit to the feeder to the end of a hose and screw in a bottle of concentrated plant food.

You can then simply water your garden with three different spray patterns and decide when to add the nutrients to feed your plants over the leaves and around the roots. It dissolves the right amount automatically.

Keep your gravel paths free of weeds



Removing dead flower heads will encourage more flowering

with a treatment of Pathclear Weedkiller PC or the ready-to-use Pathclear Gun! Weedkiller.

These special weedkillers for gravel paths and drives controls the weeds that are already present and prevent the growth of germinating weed seeds for up to three months.

Words and photographs supplied by John Clowes, of The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company

## Topical tips

Planning for autumn colour on the patio means that it's time to sow seeds of winter flowering pansies and biennials such as stock, sweet williams and wallflowers.



## HOMES AND FINANCIAL

### TO LET



**11 Canning Road, Parkhall, Walsall, WS5 3HN**

- Three Bedrooms
- Large Lounge
- Conservatory
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Front and Rear Garden
- Garage
- Driveway

£695 PCM

MODERN SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE

### TO LET



**292 Harden Road, Leamore, Walsall, WS3 1RQ**

- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazed
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Garage
- Driveway

£650 PCM

MODERN DETACHED HOUSE

### TO LET



**13 Cambridge Street, Caldmore, Walsall WS1 4BJ**

- Two double bedrooms
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Family bathroom
- Gas central heating
- Driveway
- Rear garden

£475 PCM

MID TERRACED HOUSE

### TO LET



**424 Wolverhampton Road, Walsall, WS2 8RJ**

- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Rear Garden

£495 PCM

MID - TERRACE HOUSE

### TO LET



**7 Spring Walk, Reedswood, Walsall, WS2 8UF**

- Three bedrooms
- Lounge
- Part fitted kitchen
- Dining area
- Family bathroom
- Double glazing
- Gas central heating
- Driveway
- Enclosed rear garden
- Garage

£495 PCM

SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE

### TO LET



**31 Waterfront Way, Walsall, West Midlands, WS2 9NH**

- Second Floor
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge / Diner
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating
- Off Road Allocated Parking Space

£450 PCM

2ND FLOOR APARTMENT

### TO LET



**Flat 2, 125 Sandwell Street, Walsall, WS1 3EG**

- Two bedrooms
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom with shower
- Electric heating
- Double glazing

£395 PCM

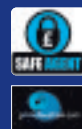
1st FLOOR FLAT



**Tel: 01922 611800**

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# DIXONS

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DoingMore...

## Deans Gate, Willenhall



£67,500

Well presented three bedroom semi-detached home situated in a cul-de-sac location. A viewing is essential to appreciate the value for money this home offers. Available on a 50% shared ownership basis with the option to purchase 100%. No chain!!!

## Hawkswood Drive, Wednesbury



£100,000

A stunning SHOWHOME STYLE two bedroom terraced home with conservatory and semi open plan living space. Would make an excellent first time buy situated in a cul-de-sac by a nature reserve. Considered ideal for commuting to Wolverhampton and the M6 due to local road links. Viewing is essential!!!

## Portal Road, Walsall



£110,000

Well presented three bedroom semi-detached home situated in cul-de-sac. Benefiting from an exceptional garage/workshop. Viewing recommended to appreciate the space on offer. No upward chain!!!

## Instow Close, Willenhall



£120,000

This two bedroom semi-detached home is modern throughout. Comprising in brief of driveway, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, double glazing and central heating. Front and rear gardens

## Stroud Avenue, Willenhall



£95,000

Refurbished home on Stroud Avenue with great rear garden, renovated in 2012, the property offers two bedrooms, lounge, rear garden, kitchen and bathroom. No chain.

## Langmead Close, Willenhall



£150,000 **NEW**

Situated in cul de sac location within Briarsleigh. This three bedroom home is presented in modern order throughout! Benefiting from conservatory, kitchen/diner and utility room. Crete print drive and garage.

## Durham Avenue, Willenhall



£120,000

A stunning "showhome style" two bedroom semi-detached home benefitting from an exceptional extended kitchen/diner and garage. Also benefitting from rear vehicular access. A viewing is absolutely essential!!!

## PROPERTY OF THE WEEK



**NEW**

## Lydney Close, Willenhall



£160,000 **NEW**

An extended home in a cul-de-sac spot off the popular Stroud Ave. Four bedrooms with even the smallest measuring 11'2" x 7'2"! Refitted bathroom & a larger-than-average garage!! Owners selling with No-Chain.

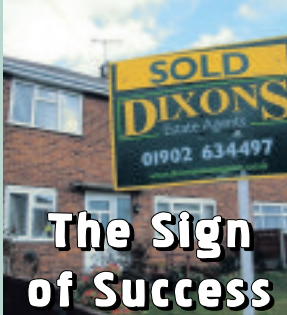
## Pinewood Close, Willenhall



£150,000

**NEW**

Extended three bedroom home on prestigious Woodlands Estate. Local to the Woodlands School. Situated in a cul de sac and offered to the market with the benefit of no chain, garage, guest cloakroom, driveway and fitted kitchen



The Sign  
of Success

## Larchmere Drive, Essington



£285,000

Stunning ultra modern home with five bedrooms, two bathrooms and impressive kitchen. Comprises of two reception rooms and conservatory. Viewing essential to appreciate accommodation.



## Gorey Close, Willenhall



£120,000

**REDUCED**

Immaculately presented two bedroom semi-detached home situated on the popular "Coppice Farm" development. Benefiting from a refitted kitchen, bathroom and conservatory. Offering potential for garage and extension (Subject to planning consents)..

## St. Georges Street, Wednesbury



£130,000

**REDUCED**

Well presented three bedroom semi-detached home with spacious L-Shaped lounge/diner, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom. Further benefitting from driveway and garage. Offered with no upward chain.

## Pugh Crescent, Walsall



£85,000

**REDUCED**

Three bedroom semi-detached home benefitting from conservatory, garage and driveway. A viewing is absolutely essential to appreciate the level of accommodation on offer.

## Wayside Gardens, Willenhall



£135,000

**REDUCED**

Three bedroom semi-detached home situated in a popular cul-de-sac just off Stroud Avenue close to the local shops and schools. Benefiting from refitted bathroom and detached garage to the rear. No chain

## Willenhall Street, Wednesbury



£100,000

**NEW**

An immaculately presented three bedroom home benefitting from a refitted kitchen and bathroom. Also offering driveway parking to the fore. A viewing is essential to appreciate the improvement project the current owners have undertaken. Would make an excellent first home. Call us today!!!

## Victoria Court, Granville Street



£92,500

Unusual two bedroom ground floor apartment with electronically gated parking. Due to the unusual design of this wonderful apartment it benefits from a spacious open plan living area, bathroom with separate bath and walk in shower.

## Pinson Road, Willenhall



£90,000

**REDUCED**

A three bedroom end-terraced home situated conveniently for Willenhall Town Centre. Benefiting from the bonus of a downstairs WC. A viewing comes highly recommended.

## Almond Avenue, Bentley



£65,000

**REDUCED**

A three bedroom first floor flat situated in a popular cul-de-sac in Bentley. Having been extensively improved by the current owner this would make a great investment property or first time buy!!! Available with NO CHAIN!!!

## Stadium Close, Willenhall



£55,995

A one bedroom quarter house presented in good order and situated in a popular cul-de-sac close to Willenhall Town. Would suit a first time buyer or investment for buy2let. A viewing is recommended!

## King Charles Avenue, Walsall



£57,000

A two bedroom terraced home situated in Bentley close to Jct. 10 M6. Presented in good order this would be an excellent first time buy or investment purchase. At this price it won't hang around long.



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**7 Queens Parade  
Bloxwich  
Walsall  
WS3 2EX  
01922 711444**



**Bloxwich  
Stafford Road**  
● Extended Four Bedroom Detached  
● Three Reception Rooms  
● Re-Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom  
● Dressing Area & En-Suite  
● Two Garages  
● Large Front & Rear Gardens  
● Parking

**In the Region of £399,950**



**Walsall  
Norman Road**  
● Extended Four Bed Detached Bungalow  
● Two Large Reception Rooms  
● D. Glazing  
● Fitted Kitchen  
● Bathroom  
● Guest W.C.  
● Shower Room  
● Central Heating  
● Gardens  
● Off Road Parking

**In the Region of £350,000**



**Bloxwich  
Lichfield Road**  
● Extended Four/Five Bed Semi-Detached  
● Three Reception Rooms  
● Kitchen  
● Family Bathroom  
● Attic Bedroom  
● Integral Garage & Off Road Parking

**In the Region of £249,950**



**Bloxwich  
Kedleston Close**  
● Four Bedroom Detached  
● Lounge  
● Dining Room  
● Kitchen  
● Study/Games Room  
● Utility  
● En-Suite  
● Guest Cloakroom  
● Conservatory  
● Family Bathroom  
● Detached Garage

**In the Region of £239,950**



**Bloxwich  
Belfry Close**  
● Four Bedroom Detached  
● Two Reception Rooms  
● Central Heating  
● D. Glazing  
● Garage  
● Front & Rear Gardens  
● Off Road Parking  
● No Upward Chain

**Offers in excess of £219,950**



**Walsall  
Birmingham Road**  
● Five Bedroom Victorian Family Home  
● Extended Kitchen/Diner  
● Bathroom  
● Block Paved Driveway  
● Rear Landscaped Garden

**Offers in excess £199,950**



**Bloxwich  
Field Road**  
● Four Bedroom Semi-Detached  
● Fully Re-Furb'd  
● Two Reception Rooms  
● Re-Fitted Kitchen  
● Conservatory  
● Utility Room  
● WC  
● Family Bathroom  
● Rear Garden  
● Garages & Workshop

**In the Region of £199,000**



**Bloxwich  
Ambergate Close**  
● Extended Four Bed Semi-Detached  
● Two Reception Rooms  
● Fitted Kitchen  
● Two Bathrooms  
● Off Road Parking  
● D. Glazing & G.C. Heating  
● Well Presented Rear Garden

**In the Region £195,000**



**Bloxwich  
Lytham Grove**  
● Three Bedroom Detached  
● Two Reception Rooms  
● Fitted Kitchen  
● Cloakroom W.C.  
● En-Suite  
● Solid Timber Flooring  
● Family Bathroom  
● Conservatory  
● Integral Garage

**Offers in excess of £194,000**



**Willenhall  
Crab Lane**  
● Four Bedroom Link-Detached  
● Through Lounge/Diner  
● Kitchen  
● Ground Floor Shower Room  
● First Floor Shower Room  
● Utility Room  
● Garage & Off Road Parking  
● Gardens

**In the Region of £179,995**



**Bloxwich  
Selsdon Road**  
● Three Bedroom Detached  
● Two Reception Rooms  
● Kitchen  
● Cloakroom W.C.  
● Family Bathroom  
● Front & Rear Gardens  
● Garage & Off Road Parking

**In the Region of £179,950**



**Willenhall  
Wood Lane**  
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached  
● Open Plan Lounge/Dining Room  
● Fitted Kitchen  
● Family Bathroom  
● Conservatory  
● Garage/Workshop  
● Gardens  
● Off Road Parking

**In the Region of £165,000**



**Willenhall  
Dursley Close**  
● Three Bedroom Detached  
● Through Lounge/Dining Room  
● Sitting Room  
● Fitted Kitchen  
● Utility Room  
● Bathroom  
● Rear Garden  
● Integral Garage & Block Paved Driveway

**Offers in excess of £149,950**



**Walsall  
Leamore Lane**  
● Three Bedroom Town House  
● Kitchen/Diner  
● Study  
● Cloakroom W.C.  
● First Floor Lounge  
● Family Bathroom  
● En-Suite Shower Room  
● Gardens  
● Detached Garage

**In the Region of 145,000**

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sell your home in  
90 days!**



**Walsall  
Little Island Drive**  
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached  
● Lounge  
● Kitchen/Diner  
● Driveway  
● Master Bedroom with En-Suite  
● Family Bathroom  
● Integral Garage  
● Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing

**Offers in excess of £140,000**



**Walsall  
Harness Close**  
● Three Bedroom Link-Detached  
● Lounge  
● Kitchen  
● Diner  
● Family Bathroom  
● Front & Rear Gardens  
● Garage & Driveway  
● NO CHAIN

**Offers in excess of £135,000**



**Walsall  
Leamore Lane**  
● Three Bedroom Town House  
● Lounge  
● Kitchen/Diner  
● En-Suite  
● Family Bathroom  
● Family Bathroom  
● Front & Rear Gardens  
● Off Road Parking  
● Double Glazing & Central Heating

**In the Region of £135,000**



**Willenhall  
High Road**  
● Three Bedroom Detached  
● Open Plan Lounge/Dining Room  
● Fitted Kitchen  
● Utility Room  
● Family Bathroom  
● Front & Rear Gardens  
● Off Road Parking  
● D. Glazing & Central Heating

**Offers in excess of £130,000**



**Bloxwich  
Newhome Way**  
● Three Bedroom Town House  
● Fitted Kitchen  
● Lounge  
● Cloakroom W.C.  
● Family Bathroom  
● En-Suite Shower Room  
● Gardens  
● Detached Garage & Off Road Parking

**Offers in excess of £130,000**



**Bloxwich  
Drake Road**  
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached  
● Lounge  
● Kitchen  
● Bathroom  
● Extended Dining Room  
● Front & Rear Gardens  
● Garage & Off Road Parking

**Offers in excess of £129,950**



**Bloxwich  
Henley Close**  
● Three Bedroom Semi-Detached  
● Lounge  
● Extended Kitchen  
● Dining Room  
● Family Bathroom  
● Gardens  
● Garage & Driveway  
● Part Gas Central & Double Glazing

**In the Region of £110,000**



**Rushall  
Springfield**  
● Three Bedroom End Terrace  
● Entrance Hall  
● Lounge  
● Kitchen/Diner  
● Bathroom  
● Patio Area  
● Gas Central Heating  
● Double Glazing  
● Front & Rear Gardens

**Offers in excess of £96,000**



**Walsall  
Alumwell Road**  
● One Bed Semi-Detached Bungalow  
● Lounge  
● Country Style Kitchen  
● Recently Refitted Bathroom  
● Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating  
● Mature Rear Garden  
● Front Garden

**In the Region of £89,950**



**Bloxwich  
Revival Street**  
● Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace  
● Two Reception Rooms  
● New Kitchen  
● Re-Fitted Bathroom  
● Large Rear Garden  
● NO CHAIN  
● Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating

**Offers in excess of £87,000**



**Walsall  
Remington Road**  
● Two Bedroom Semi-Detached  
● Lounge  
● Kitchen  
● Ground Floor W.C.  
● Bathroom  
● Front & Rear Gardens  
● Garage & Off Road Parking  
● NO CHAIN

**Offers in excess of £85,000**



**Walsall  
Manorhouse Close**  
● Two Bedroom Top Floor Apartment  
● Allocated Parking for 2 cars  
● Double Glazing Gas Central Heating  
● Family Bathroom  
● Lounge/Kitchen  
● Cloakroom/Storage Cupboard

**Offers in excess of £82,500**



**Walsall  
Jubilee Close**  
● Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace  
● Two Reception Rooms  
● Kitchen  
● Family Bathroom  
● Verandah  
● Front & Rear Gardens  
● Part Central Heating & D. Glazing

**In the Region of £78,000**



**Walsall  
Fleming Road**  
● Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace House  
● Lounge  
● Dining Room  
● Fitted Kitchen  
● Verandah  
● Family Bathroom  
● Front & Rear Gardens  
● NO CHAIN

**Offers in excess of £75,000**



**Bloxwich  
Evesham Crescent**  
● Two Bedroom End-Terrace  
● Lounge  
● Kitchen  
● Family Bathroom  
● Brick Out Buildings  
● Front & Rear Gardens  
● Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating

**In the Region of £75,000**



**Walsall  
Gurney Road**  
● Two Bedroom End Terrace  
● Lounge  
● Kitchen  
● Bathroom  
● Front & Rear Gardens  
● Corner Plot scope to extend  
● Double Glazing & Central Heating

**Offers in excess of £70,000**



**Walsall  
Chatsworth Close**  
● Two Bedroom First Floor Maisonette  
● Lounge  
● Kitchen  
● Shower Room  
● Double Glazing  
● Electric Storage Heating  
● Off Road Parking

**In the Region of £66,500**



**Bloxwich  
Green Lane**  
● Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat  
● Lounge with Storage/Cloak Cupboard  
● Fitted Kitchen  
● Bathroom  
● Shared Communal Gardens  
● Off Road Parking

**Offers in excess of £60,000**

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**ESSINGTON  
WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD**

- Superb detached property plus 1 bed detached bungalow
- 1000sq - spacious through lounge/dining room
- Extended third kitchen, Sun room/dining room
- Side entry with downstairs wc 3 first floor bedrooms
- Refitted family bedroom with jazz type bath
- Rear garden 8 ample parking to the front
- 1000sq UPVC reception hall, lounge

**£329,950**



**ESSINGTON  
ROWAN DRIVE**

- Superb extended modern style detached house
- UPVC double glazed conservatory
- Refitted third bathroom
- Substantial 25ft x 16ft garage/workshop
- Enclosed rear garden
- Enclosed rear garden
- Well equipped dining kitchen in view and

**NOW £299,950**



**WILLENHALL  
SANDBEDS ROAD**

- Character Victorian style detached residence
- Generous plot with parking & two garages
- Four bedrooms, master with en-suite shower
- Dining room and 20ft extended lounge
- Well equipped breakfast kitchen with appliances
- Utility room
- Lovely established rear garden
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows

**£289,950 OPEN TO OFFERS**



**ESSINGTON  
BUTTERMERE DRIVE**

- A superb extended modern style detached residence
- Four bedrooms, master with refitted en-suite shower room
- Lounge and dining room
- Well equipped dining kitchen in view and
- over and hob
- Large utility room and downstairs guest cloakroom
- Extended study/office
- Principle refitted family bedroom with

**WAS £269,950 NOW £259,500 OFFERS**



**COPPICE FARM  
LOCALS GROVE**

- Modern style detached family residence
- Four bedrooms
- En-suite shower room
- Lounge and dining room
- Breakfast kitchen and downstairs guest cloakroom
- Large plot with parking
- Generous rear garden
- Gas central heating
- Interior viewing recommended

**£194,500**



**WILLENHALL  
HIGH ROAD**

- Spacious modern style detached residence
- Four bedrooms
- En-suite shower room
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Lounge and separate dining room
- Fitted breakfast kitchen with selected appliances
- Black paved driveway

**NOW £185,000**



**ESSINGTON  
SHERRINGHAM DRIVE**

- Pleasantly appointed link detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazing
- Fully fitted refitted shower room
- Tons of garage with electric roller door
- Established south facing rear garden

**£179,995 OPEN TO OFFERS**



**SUMMER HAYES  
FENN RISE**

- Deceptively spacious, link detached bungalow
- Extended to the side elevation
- Three bedrooms and dressing room
- Bedroom 2 currently used as a second lounge
- Majority triple glazed windows
- Gas central heating
- 22ft double length garage
- 20ft side garage
- Lovely established rear garden

**WAS £182,500 NOW £177,500**



**NEW INVENTION, WILLENHALL  
CRAB LANE**

- Barner style link detached bungalow
- Popular and much requested location
- Two/three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Two reception rooms
- Upstairs bathroom with shower
- Pleasant
- 20ft side garage
- Private established rear garden

**NOW £164,950 OFFERS, NO CHAIN**



**WILLENHALL  
LUCKNOW ROAD**

- Extended traditional style detached property
- Extended at both side and rear elevations
- Spacious family living accommodation
- Four bedrooms, two with fitted wardrobes
- Two reception rooms
- Gas central heating
- Monthly double glazed windows
- Heavily double glazed windows
- Upstairs bathroom plus separate shower room
- Large plot with gardens to front rear & side

**£160,000 OFFERS, VIEWING RECOMMENDED**



**WILLENHALL  
ALTON AVENUE**

- Superb double fronted traditional style semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Fitted kitchen including oven & hob
- Utility room and downstairs wc
- Fitted shower room with walk in shower
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazing
- Lounge and separate dining room
- Fitted breakfast kitchen with selected appliances
- Generous rear garden

**£159,950 NO CHAIN**



**WILLENHALL, OFF STROUD AVE  
LYDNEY CLOSE**

- Pleasantly extended semi detached property
- Cal-de-sac position
- Four bedrooms
- Gas central heating system
- Double glazed windows
- Two reception rooms
- Fully fitted refitted shower room
- Tons of garage with electric roller door
- Established south facing rear garden

**£156,500 OFFERS**



**SNEYD PARK  
KEWSTOKE ROAD**

- Pleasantly appointed improved semi detached property
- Three bedrooms, one with fitted wardrobe
- Lounge and dining room
- No fitted bathroom with corner bath
- Suite
- Re-style kitchen
- Garage and block paved driveway
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Internal viewing strongly recommended

**£150,000**



**WILLENHALL  
LAKESIDE CLOSE**

- Pleasantly appointed modern style detached property
- Three bedrooms
- En-suite shower room
- 18ft fitted dining kitchen inc
- over and hob
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Enclosed rear garden
- Ample off road parking

**OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £149,950**



**NEW INVENTION  
BAYNTON ROAD**

- Superbly appointed extended semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- UPVC double glazing
- Extended dining/living room
- Attractive re-style kitchen in view and
- Large plot with gardens to front rear & side
- Concrete paved driveway

**£139,950 OFFERS**



**WILLENHALL  
DURSLEY CLOSE, OFF STROUD AVENUE**

- Pleasantly appointed detached property
- Potential to extend (subject to Regs)
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazing
- Lounge and separate dining room
- Fitted breakfast kitchen with selected appliances
- Generous rear garden

**£149,950**



**NEW INVENTION  
SQUIRES GROVE**

- Well appointed modern style town house
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating, UPVC double glazing
- En-suite shower room
- Fitted dining kitchen including oven and hob
- 17ft front lounge
- Downstairs guest cloakroom with wc
- Enclosed rear garden
- Off road parking to the fore

**£136,500 OFFERS, NO CHAIN**



**COPPICE FARM  
KESTREL GROVE**

- Pleasantly appointed modern style semi detached property
- Two bedrooms, one with built in wardrobe
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Lounge with feature fireplace
- Fitted kitchen
- Fitted dining kitchen with oven and hob
- UPVC double glazed conservatory
- Fitted bathroom with shower
- Enclosed rear garden
- Ample off road parking

**£130,000 OFFERS, IDEAL FIRST TIME PURCHASE**



**NEW INVENTION  
BALMORAL DRIVE**

- Pleasantly appointed extended semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Electric storage heating
- Lounge and dining room
- Side entry with utility room/downstairs wc
- Upstairs bathroom with shower (front)
- Pleasant established rear garden

**NOW £128,000 OFFERS**



**HADLEY HEATH  
CROXLEY GARDENS**

- Extended modern style semi detached property
- Popular Hadley Heath location
- Cal-de-sac position
- Three bedrooms
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Lounge and dining kitchen
- Upstairs bathroom with shower
- Enclosed rear garden
- Garage and off road parking

**£125,000 OFFERS**



**DARLASTON  
PINFOLD STREET**

- Lovely one bedroom ground floor flat in convenient location
- Pleasantly appointed accommodation throughout
- Lounge with feature fireplace
- Fitted kitchen
- Fitted shower room with walk-in bath
- Communal gardens and allocated parking
- Gas central heating system
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Internal viewing recommended

**£65,000 OFFERS, NO CHAIN**



**WILLENHALL  
CHATSWORTH CLOSE**

- First floor residence in pleasant cal-de-sac position
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Electric storage heating
- Lounge and kitchen
- Fully fitted shower room
- Allocated parking space
- Ideal first time purchase or potential buy
- 1st floor investment purchase

**£66,500**



**WILLENHALL  
SHEPPELL GREEN**

- Conveniently located and town house style property
- Deceptively spacious accommodation
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- 18ft dining kitchen
- Upstairs bathroom with shower
- Gardens to front and rear
- Ideal for a first time purchaser or investor
- Rear garden

**£89,950 NO CHAIN**



**WILLENHALL  
LISTER STREET**

- Pleasant extended and town house style property
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Gas central heating system
- Three bedrooms
- 18ft extended dining kitchen
- 1. sloped rear lounge
- Upstairs bathroom with shower
- Pleasant to improve and/or re-model
- Fitted kitchen
- Garage in nearby block
- Gardens to front and rear
- Ideal first time purchase

**£99,950 OFFERS, NO CHAIN**



**WILLENHALL  
ALAMEIN ROAD**

- Traditional style town house
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- 19ft fitted dining kitchen
- 14ft through lounge
- Upstairs bathroom
- Generous landscaped rear garden

**NOW £99,995 OFFERS, NO CHAIN**



**NEW INVENTION  
BEACON ROAD**

- Traditional style semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Refitted dining kitchen in view and
- Upstairs bathroom with shower
- Front and rear gardens
- Part double glazing
- Popular location
- Viewing recommended

**NOW £105,000 OFFERS**



**WILLENHALL  
PACKWOOD CLOSE**

- Pleasantly appointed modern style semi
- Cal-de-sac position
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Lounge and fitted breakfast kitchen
- Gardens to front and rear
- Ample off road parking

**£110,000 OFFERS**



**WILLENHALL  
SHERLOCK CLOSE**

- Pleasantly appointed modern style and town house
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- UPVC double glazed conservatory
- Fitted kitchen in view and
- Rear lounge
- Guest cloakroom with wc
- Rear garden

**£114,995 OFFERS**



**WEDNESFIELD  
HAWTHORNE ROAD**

- Modern style semi detached property
- Black single storey location off Broad Lane South
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Part double glazing
- Potential to improve and/or re-model
- Fitted kitchen
- Garage in nearby block
- Road parking
- IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY!

**WAS £118,500 NOW £114,995**



**WILLENHALL  
BARMOUTH CLOSE**

- Pleasant semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating system
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Two reception rooms
- Fitted kitchen
- Upstairs bathroom
- Front and rear gardens
- Excellent potential to improve

**£124,995**



**WEDNESFIELD  
YALE DRIVE**

- Specially appointed modern style semi in popular development
- Corner plot position
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating & UPVC double glazing
- 14ft lounge
- Upstairs bathroom with shower
- Side driveway affording off road parking
- No upward chain

**WAS £126,500 NOW £124,995**

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### WILLENHALL THOMPSON STREET

- Superbly appointed, considerably improved detached bungalow
- Spacious and versatile accommodation
- Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed windows
- Large open plan L shaped lounge/kitchen
- Two ground floor bedrooms and bathroom
- First floor landing/study area with master bedroom
- Bedroom four/dressing room off
- Luxury shower room with walk in shower

£260,000 OFFERS



### UNEXPECTED AVAILABILITY

### COPPICE FARM KINGFISHER GROVE

- Pleasantly appointed modern style detached
- Delightful location set back from the road
- Four bedrooms, all with wardrobes
- Master bedroom with en-suite shower room
- Two reception rooms
- Refitted kitchen
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Established rear garden
- VERY REASONABLE OFFERS (CONSIDERED)

£209,995



### WILLENHALL BEWLEY ROAD

- Superb extended four bed detached property
- Four bedroom and en-suite shower room
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Attractive front lounge with feature fireplace
- Excellent fitted dining kitchen with appliances
- UPVC double glazed conservatory
- Utility room and downstairs wc

£179,950



### WILLENHALL MARDEN CLOSE

- Spacious extended modern style semi
- Extended at side and rear elevations
- Four bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- 21ft lounge with feature fireplace
- Extended dining room and kitchen
- Utility room and downstairs wc

£145,000 OFFERS



### COPPICE FARM BUTTERMERE GROVE

- Considerably improved modern style and town house
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Smart fitted kitchen with appliances
- Separate UPVC double glazed conservatory
- Excellent refitted bathroom with corner bath suite and shower
- Black paved driveway affording ample parking
- Potential to extend, subject to planning

£129,950 OFFERS



### NEW INVENTION BAYNTON ROAD

- Deceptively spacious town house style property
- Well appointed much improved accommodation
- Three generous bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Rear lounge with French style doors
- Fitted kitchen including appliances
- Pleasant rear garden overlooking local fields

£120,000 OFFERS, NO CHAIN



### WILLENHALL WESTFIELD ROAD

- Pleasantly appointed traditional style bay fronted semi
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Lounge with feature fireplace
- Spacious fitted dining kitchen
- Upstairs bathroom with separate shower cubicle
- Attractive rear garden

£114,950 OFFERS



### COPPICE FARM GURNARD CLOSE

- Pleasantly appointed modern style and town house
- Two bedrooms, one with bath in wardrobe
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Lounge with feature fireplace
- Fitted dining kitchen
- Fitted bathroom with shower
- Lovely established rear garden
- Side driveway affording off road parking
- Ideal first time purchase

£114,950



### WILLENHALL CAISTER DRIVE

- Modern style detached property
- Two bedrooms
- In need of some internal modernisation
- Gas central heating system
- Lounge and dining kitchen
- Upstairs bathroom with shower
- Gardens to front and rear
- Internal viewing recommended

£100,000 OFFERS, NO CHAIN



### BENTLEY RIDGE CLOSE

- Deceptive two bedroom town house style property
- Gas warm air central heating system
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Spacious L shaped lounge/dining room
- Upstairs bathroom and separate wc
- Garden to the fore
- Rear garden with enclosed parking area
- Ideal first time purchase

£80,000 OFFERS, NO CHAIN



### WANTED

TWO AND THREE  
BEDROOM SEMI  
DETACHED  
PROPERTIES IN  
THE BENTLEY  
AREA



### NEW INVENTION LICHFIELD ROAD

- Deceptively spacious individually built detached residence
- Three double bedrooms
- Refitted family bathroom
- Separate shower room
- UPVC double glazing
- Gas central heating
- Refitted kitchen
- Lounge, dining room and study
- Garage and ample off road parking

NOW £235,000



### WILLENHALL HAWKSWELL DRIVE

- Pleasant modern style semi detached property
- Ideal first time buy
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Upstairs bathroom with shower
- Concrete paved driveway
- Rear garden

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £99,950

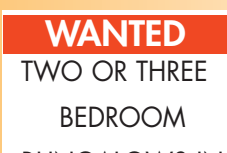
WANTED  
THREE AND FOUR  
BEDROOM  
PROPERTIES IN  
COPPICE FARM  
OR SNEYD PARK



### SUMMER HAYES PERRY HALL DRIVE

- Deceptively spacious semi detached property
- 3/4 bedrooms (occasional 4th bedroom off bathroom)
- Refitted kitchen with integrated appliances
- Refitted bathroom with separate shower cubicle
- UPVC external double glazing
- Gas fired central heating
- Double length garage with utility area
- Large enclosed rear garden with paved patio
- Black paved off-road parking

NOW £162,000 OFFERS



### WILLENHALL BARMOUTH CLOSE

- Pleasant semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating system
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Two reception rooms
- Fitted kitchen
- Upstairs bathroom
- Front and rear gardens
- Lovely established rear garden
- Gas central heating
- Excellent potential to improve

£124,995



### TAMEBRIDGE BETONY CLOSE

- Superb modern style detached residence
- Four bedrooms, master with fitted wardrobe
- Large and dining room
- Separate UPVC double glazed conservatory
- Fitted kitchen with oven and hob
- Ensuite shower room
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £200,000



### WANTED

TWO AND THREE  
BEDROOM SEMIS  
IN WV12 AND  
WV13 AREAS



### ESSINGTON LARCHMERE DRIVE

- Pleasantly appointed extended modern style detached residence
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge, separate 16ft extended dining room
- 16ft extended breakfast kitchen
- Separate UPVC double glazed conservatory
- Utility room and downstairs guest cloakroom
- Lovely established rear garden
- Gas central heating & UPVC double glazed windows
- Ideal first time purchase

£229,950



### NEW INVENTION WROUGHTON CLOSE

- Pleasantly appointed extended semi detached residence
- Extended to the rear at ground floor level
- Three bedrooms
- 24ft extended lounge and separate sitting/dining room
- 19ft extended dining kitchen including oven and hob
- Study office
- Lovely established rear garden
- Gas central heating
- Front and rear gardens
- UPVC double glazed windows

NOW £137,000 OFFERS, NO CHAIN



### BLOXWICH SNEYD LANE

- Pleasantly appointed traditional style semi
- Two bedrooms
- Separate downstairs shower room
- Spacious 21ft through
- Lounge/dining room
- 16ft fitted kitchen
- Lovely established rear garden
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows

NOW £108,500 OFFERS, NO CHAIN



### COPPICE FARM BUTTERMERE GROVE

- Pleasantly appointed town house style property
- Refitted bathroom with shower over the bath
- Gas fired central heating
- UPVC double glazing
- Fitted dining kitchen with integrated oven, hob & pantry
- Refitted bathroom with shower over the bath
- Enclosed rear garden with paved patio
- Off road parking

£114,950



### WILLENHALL ALAMEIN ROAD

- Traditional style town house
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- 19ft fitted dining kitchen
- 16ft through lounge
- Upstairs bathroom
- Generous lawned rear garden

NOW £99,995 OFFERS, NO CHAIN



### WILLENHALL WEDNESFIELD ROAD

- Pleasantly appointed Victorian style and terrace
- Two bedrooms
- Upstairs bathroom with shower
- Two reception rooms
- Fitted kitchen and downstairs cloakroom
- Enclosed rear garden
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Ideal first time purchase

NOW £79,950 OFFERS, NO CHAIN



### DARLASTON WOLVERHAMPTON STREET

- Spacious first floor flat in convenient location
- Two bedrooms
- Gas warm air central heating system
- UPVC double glazed windows
- Spacious 16ft lounge
- Kitchen and shower room
- Communal entrance with security intercom

NOW £56,000, NO CHAIN

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# MOTERING NEWS AND REVIEWS

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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

## Compact SUV has versatility that is hard to ignore


**By Iain Dooley**

**NOW IN its third generation, Mitsubishi's Outlander has gradually evolved from left-field alternative to a compact SUV to something with the potential to give the current crop of affordable mid-size sports utility vehicles something to worry about.**

With its streamlined stance and decidedly upmarket styling, Mitsubishi bosses are bullish about this Outlander's performance in the marketplace. Being realistic, Mitsubishi in the UK is offering a diesel-only fleet complete with four-wheel drive as standard.

The only major decision to make is whether to go with the firm's six-speed manual transmission or the six-speed auto.

In isolation this Outlander is a welcome step forward from the Japanese car maker. However, internally this model is more significant than the average buyer will ever appreciate. A cornerstone of the firm's new model plans

for the coming years, not only has the Outlander been the subject of a significant weight-loss programme – 100kg – it's also been designed from the outset to accommodate both conventional engines and the new wave of plug-in hybrid technologies.

For now, though, the Outlander symbolises a significant step forward in its own right.

The weight reduction has been achieved without any compromise to the ownership experience, while the reward for the engineers' hard work has been meaningful efficiency and emissions gains.

The sole engine option will be familiar to Outlander fans as it's a modified version of what was in the second-generation car.

The 148bhp 2.2-litre diesel unit has been reworked for its new home, with the result a useful 50mpg and a sub-150g/km CO<sub>2</sub> rating.

From a performance angle the car will sprint to 60mph in just under 10 seconds, while top speed is 124mph.

Both gearboxes deliver a smooth and hassle-free experience, with the auto offering the extra convenience for urban dwellers and those seeking fewer distractions when towing.

On the road the Outlander performs well, and

comes across as a genuinely competent all-rounder. There's a welcome maturity to the way it drives, and body control is well contained and overall refinement is pleasingly high.

Granted, there's no escaping the fact that the Outlander is diesel powered, but the car's cabin ambience is rarely disturbed by the engine's activity when at sensible speeds.

Factor in an easy-to-use all-wheel drive system that offers extra grip when the weather turns foul or for added security when you're towing and the Outlander's versatility is hard to ignore.

This is an attribute also reflected in the car's ability to accommodate a growing family.

Mitsubishi's engineers are keen to stress that the inclusion of a third row of seats turns the car into a genuine seven-seater.

Boasting a stylish, streamlined appearance plus a revised cabin offering a much-needed and welcome high-quality ambience, this third generation Outlander does many things right.

The substantial weight saving, promise of generous kit levels and tangible running cost savings are just some of the other achievements likely to put the Outlander on the shopping lists of many buyers.

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The Skoda Rapid, a compact saloon with plenty of room for five people and luggage

## Skoda saloon is all set to share advances with Volkswagen Jetta

SKODA has released further details of its fast-approaching Rapid compact saloon following a concept image some months ago.

Sized in between the Fabia and Octavia, the Rapid aims to capture sales in a corner of the market it currently doesn't serve. It's likely that it will end up sharing a lot of parts and

technology with the Volkswagen Jetta. However, the Rapid is the first Skoda to showcase the next generation of the company's styling.

Despite being smaller in every direction, it looks quite similar in proportions to a current generation Octavia, but with a nod towards the sort of straight-line architecture that the first Volkswagen-era Octavia used at its 2001

release. Skoda claims the Rapid will have room for five plus their baggage, with five petrol and two diesel engines offered at launch.

With the fast efficiency advances being made with small, turbocharged petrol engines and the impending Euro 6 emissions laws that take into account diesel engines' particulate emissions, Skoda is anticipating that buyers will begin to swing back towards petrol.

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## Honda's cool supermini gets a new sportier look

The Jazz Si has new dampers and a larger front anti-roll bar for greater stability and less body roll

**HONDA'S Jazz supermini is now available in limited edition Si form, bringing a dash of sportiness to the range.**

Based on the 1.4 ES model, the Si adds sportier front and rear bumpers, side skirts and unique 16in alloy wheels. Privacy glass and front fog lights are also standard, with a discreet

'Si' badge on the bootlid. The Si is more than just about looks however, as it gains new dampers and a larger front anti-roll bar for greater stability and reduced body roll.

### Feedback

The power steering system has also been retuned to give better feedback to the driver.

Inside there are Si details too, with a

leather steering wheel, attractive seats finished in black and silver and cruise control all as standard.

Prices start at £14,550 rising to £15,545 for the automatic version which also gains SD navigation and Bluetooth.

Honda is also offering the Si on a three-year zero per cent finance PCP, with monthly payments of £149 with a 27 per cent deposit.



The fourth generation Clio sees a 100 kg drop in weight compared to previous Renault models

## Renault reveal their most advanced five-door Clio

**RENAULT has taken the wraps off its long-awaited fourth generation Clio and released general details about the new model.**

It's set to be the most efficient and advanced Clio yet, with new engines joining the range and an average drop of 100kg in weight per model compared to the previous Clio.

The UK will only see five-door models. It's the first all-new Renault to

show the company's new 'brand identity', and it will house the new 900cc, 89bhp TCe 90 three-cylinder turbocharged petrol engine.

The other petrol option at launch will be a four-cylinder 118bhp 1.2 turbo, which will be linked to Renault's EDC (Efficient Dual Clutch) transmission.

A 1.5-litre dCi 90 diesel is the lone initial diesel option, and in due course it too will use the EDC gearbox.

The new Clio will benefit from a new

level of connectivity with the Renault R-Link; an integrated tablet device linked directly to the car.

The interface is a 7in touchscreen, but it's also voice-activated. It provides access to all the car's key functions.

Where specified, the TomTom Live mapping services offer real-time traffic updates, information on services near the route, and a special function allows users to map their eco-performance for each route and pick up tips on how to raise their efficiency.

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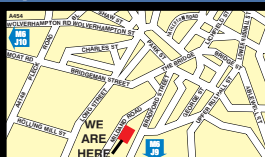
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\*The 5 year warranty consists of 36 months' unlimited mileage warranty (incl. 24 months' Pan European warranty) plus an additional warranty of 24 months' or 100,000 miles, (from date of initial registration) whichever comes first, excluding wear and tear items on retail sales only. For full details please see our website. †0% APR finance offer applies to vehicles registered between 1st July and 30th September 2012. Retail sales only. Terms and conditions apply, see our website for full details. Finance subject to status. Guarantees may be required. Alfa Romeo Financial Services: PO BOX 4465, Slough, SL1 0RW. 15 years complimentary service plan/50,000 miles - offer applies to vehicles registered between 1st July and 30th September 2012. Service plan includes scheduled servicing only occurring within 5 year period and 50,000 mile limit and excludes wear and tear items, the service plan can only be used in conjunction with PCP, HP or a cash purchase retail sales only and excludes fleet & personal contract hire. Offer correct at time of going to press. Terms and conditions apply, see our website for full details.





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**SUE** 5ft 2ins female, brown hair/eyes, loving, likes music, socialising, films, good times, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393223

**BIG** bubbly black female, single mum, looking for male for nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392501

**CHRIS** attractive slim sophisticated redhead, seeking male 30-50's to relax with and get to know. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392401

**DENISE** tall leggy good looking single mum, easygoing, enjoys nights in/out, animals, WLTm tall male for fun times possibly more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391673

**SLIM** 32yr old blonde, kind, caring, good listener, honest, likes to have fun, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393973

**YVONNE** looking for Christian male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391135

**MADELINE** 5ft black seeks male 26-41 with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393789

**PATRICIA** 6ft 5ins, red hair, blue eyes, likes nights out, meals, clubs, seeking nice young man who is kind, generous to look after me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378207

**LADY** widow, 58, slim, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks smart, intelligent, easygoing man with GSOH who enjoys conversations, days out, short breaks, meals out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387247

**WIDOW** 70, genuine, kind, caring, laidback, seeking male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387013

**EASYGOING** down to earth female, likes cooking, exploring new things in life, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386893

**39YR** old single female, hurt in past, animal lover, likes most things, seeking genuine man for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386887

**BLONDE** attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818

**IRENE** 55, blonde hair, brown eyes, loving, caring, genuine, N/S, lots of love to give, seeks male, 55-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392807

**LOUISE** youthful looking female looking for spontaneous male to put some love and lust back into life. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392491

**SARAH** 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979

**KAREN** witty female who loves to laugh, WLTm similar male to share interests, romance, cosy nights in and more. Pls call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393125

**CARING** lady, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-60 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883

**FARMER'S** granddaughter, OHAC, stunningly attractive, respectable, sincere, WLTm countryman/bachelor, 48-62, 5ft 9ins plus, genuine, uncomplicated with GSOH and TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387204

**POLLY** dark hair, 50, attractive, outgoing, seeks special outgoing male for days out etc. Telford. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 371127

**BLONDE** tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852

**LOVING** caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651

**ATTRACTIVE** slim blonde, 45, seeks honest, caring, genuine male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394651

**28YR** old brunette, seeks fun loving, adventurous male for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 380918

**FEMININE** caring, young, mid 60's N/S woman, varied interests, seeks genuine, loyal male of similar age to share togetherness and LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 381931

**NICOLE** attractive, blonde, green eyes, young 51, professional, own home, 2 boys, loves jazz, countryside, dogs, seeks genuine male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 390244

**WIDOW** genuine, 70, kind, caring, N/S, seeks male for friendship, relationship, holidays and outings. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 301333

**FUN** loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383325

**NICKY** looking for attractive male 48-55yrs for good times and relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388393

**50YR** old female, seeks male for fun and socialising. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 323580

**KIND** loving lady 43, slight disability, seeks genuine male for romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391863

**LONG** haired blonde, 37, enjoys meals out but would love to cook a romantic meal for the man of her dreams. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 361076

**CHLOE** pretty single female 36yrs, dark hair/eyes, slim build, very lonely and looking for reliable male for mutual companionship maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387057

**TALL** curvy female, 36dd, loves music, looking for fun and romance with dark male. Give me a call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 359238

**HOLLY** 25, slim, attractive, brunette, likes gym, WLTm nice, sensitive male of similar age for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 380851

**CLARE** good looking, beautiful blonde, seeks male for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378209

**LOUISE** 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, GSOH, kind, caring, honest, genuine, loving, WLTm male, 43-55 with similar qualities for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 376165

**CURVY** red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 377432

**GENUINE** female, 36, brunette, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, fun, outgoing, adventurous, GSOH, looking for tall, honest, genuine male for good companion, dates and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388327

**SHAPELY** attractive, light skinned black female, 39, seeks attractive, fit, male, 30's, builder type, tanned, rugged for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 231152

**DIONNE** 5ft 3ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, medium build, 42, single mum, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 376801

**JANICE** attractive female, 50, size 12-14, seeks younger gent, 40-50 for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 376115

**KATHY** caring lady 60, medium build, smoker, seeks caring, smart male 55-65 for companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 374773

**BETTY** fuller figured black female, 26, body confident, affectionate, WLTm older chocolate loving male for daytime meets. Any status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 377511

**JESSIE** single mum 24 looking for her Mr Right for equally respectful relationship, hopefully blossoming into love. Single dads welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 382087

**JOY** 36 petite medium build, blue eyes, loves romantic walks, meals in/out, WLTm male 30-45 for meets. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386629

**LYNN** 37 single mum, petite slim and very pretty, seeking caring funny guy to be with and become my Mr Wonderful. Dads welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386633

**MORAG** 21yr old attractive dark haired student nurse, new to area and very lonely seeks mature male for mutual companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391087

**JENNY** blue eyed cuddly independent female, loves countryside, animals, cooking, WLTm older male to spoil and look after. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378481

**LOUISE** 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, average looks, likes reading, meals out, cinema, theatre, quiet pubs, honest, genuine, kind, caring, GSOH, seeks male, 42-58. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391308

**FUN** loving lady 56, outgoing, honest, caring, seeks caring male, 55-60 for friendship, possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391192

**CARLY** beautiful slim brunette looking for naughty mature male 50-70yrs for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 376569

**MANDY** 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360317

**ALICIA** 19yr old green eyed female, very attractive, slim, long hair, independent, looking for fun with mature male, no time wasters. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 390059

**ANNA** 29yr old nurse, 6ft curvy auburn beauty, likes cosy nights in, genuinely seeking older, well built male to look after, 40-69yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375139

**SARAH** 38, slim, nice looking, tactile, no ties, WLTm kind, loving male to enjoy affectionate relationship. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378483

**PAULINE** attractive petite nurse, loves evenings in/out, looking for honest male to share loving friendship and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 379353

**VICKY** honest caring female 39yrs, GSOH, loves meals in/out, travel, cinema, WLTm someone to enjoy nice things in life with and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383911

**CLAUDIA** 37yr old attractive single mum who has been unlucky in love looking for special male to make me feel gorgeous again. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 390991

**LITTLE** bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363428

**PRETTY** barmaid, curvy size 14, loves music, WLTm easygoing male for good times, fun nights in/out and maybe more, 20-40yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391111

**5FT** 1ins female, brown hair, blue eyes, medium build, seeks male, 40-50, honest, caring, trustworthy, down to earth and bubbly. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388741

**JANE** 40's, blonde blue eyed petite build, with ties, WLTm understanding tall, caring man for daytime meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375141

**TERRI** 39, attractive in great shape, blonde, blue eyes, seeking manly professional to dominate and enjoy fun. Call me to find out more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387061

**VERY** attractive 18yr old fitness instructor looking to burn some extra calories with older experienced male who thinks he can keep up. 30-60. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364311

**29YR** old large black female looking for much older male, up to 70yrs, for naughty friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 370017

**HOME** alone with no one to call my own! 38yr old girl looking for fun. Can travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363277

**STACEY** young 20yr old looking for fun. Call me to find out more. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 382091

**JANE** 46, single mum, N/S, romantic, likes dancing, nights out, music, seeking male, 40-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 380591

**DO** you know what women want? 40yr old petite lady needs spoiling and lots of love by attractive male, 45-55. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 325753

**LAURA** 36, seeks male for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384171

**LADY** 70's, seeks gent of similar age for friendship, days out and holidays. Dudley area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 361043

**BUBBLY** female, 42, young at heart, honest, caring, likes outdoors, cinema, theatre, meals out, seeks likeminded male/soul mate, 40-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 357919

**42YR** old Sagittarian 5ft 7ins, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks genuine, caring guy interested in films, meals out, country walks, gardening and travel, 45-55. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 358399

**PROFESSIONAL** independent lady, 49, slim, blonde, attractive, varied interests, seeks intelligent, romantic, sincere, genuine male with GSOH for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 353951

**BRIGHT** bubbly, adventurous, outgoing, honest, trustworthy female, some and find me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392335

**SINGLE** mum, non drinker, seeks male for nights out, meals and lots of fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 353085

**ATTRACTIVE** female, 45, slim, affectionate, intelligent, seeks honest, caring male for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 301001

**SLIM** attractive, self sufficient lady, 44, GSOH, seeks special male, 35-50 to share evening in/out, theatre, possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 351813

**FEMALE** kind, giving, thoughtful, sensitive, seeks lifetime friend to love and understand me for who I am. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 350397

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## SINGLE MEN

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(T&C's below)

**IAN** 61, seeks attractive lady for discreet daytime meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393529

**KEVIN** attractive young looking 45yr old, slim, fit, varied interests, likes football, meals out, cinema, pubs, holidays, nights in, seeks similar aged female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393523

**GENT** 58, OHAC, retired, sensitive, caring, warm, easygoing, N/S, seeks N/S slim, attractive lady for friendship/companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393515

**60'S M** male, West Midlands, WLTm local lady for weekend fun dates. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393303

**SINGLE** male, 58, good looking, loyal, caring, no ties, seeks mature, similar female to become soul mates. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393201

**32YR** old slim, dark haired male, adventurous, creative, likes music, walks, cycling, photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753

**GOOD** looking 39yr old male, likes pubs, music, walks, swimming, seeks nice female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392943

**51YR** old male, 6ft, dark hair, single parent, likes most things, sports, seeks slim, honest, caring female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392933

**RALPH** 65, 6ft, quiet, genuine, lonely widower, likes nights in/out, weekends away, seeks slim-medium build widowed lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391359

**TONY** 50, dark hair, 6ft, seeks large female for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393079

**THOMAS** 39, seeks female, 27-48 for relationship and fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392851

**45YR** old male, average build, GSOH, likes country walks, meals out, don't be shy, now. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393137

**KIND** honest, caring male, 70, likes socialising, holidays, OHAC, seeks female, 60-70 for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393053

**55YR** old male, slim, seeks lady, any age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391712

**CHRIS** 53, 5ft 8ins, slim-medium build, GSOH, affectionate, loving, loyal, likes music, walks, cooking looking for that special lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391681

**SINGLE** dad, 44, slim, good looking, seeks genuine lady, N/S for special times, nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367415

**WHITE** male, 45, medium build, blue eyes, seeks Asian lady for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392489

**PAUL** 61, seeks attractive lady for daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392463

**TONY** 56, dark hair, 6ft, confident, outgoing, seeks female, 60-80 for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392203

**WARREN** 60's, romantic, WLTm affectionate lady for evenings/weekend meetings and close friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392191

**DON** 6ft, semi-retired businessman, varied interests, days in, meals out, holidays, music, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391590

**ATTRACTIVE** male, 41, likes gym, socialising, seeks female, 25-40 for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391580

**DARK** handsome male, Tiger Woods lookalike, seeking BBW. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392179

**PROFESSIONAL** male, 42, hurt in past, seeks female, 32-40. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392769

**NAUGHTY** 40 something, tall, smart, GSOH, seeks lady for rainy days and Sundays. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392665

**TOM** 62, fit, likes tennis, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392559

**MALE** 38, seeks female, any age for daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392645

**MARK** 44, easygoing, fun loving, athletic, seeks similar aged female for fun, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 197470

**BLACK** male, 42, 5ft 7ins, average build, GSOH, seeks nice looking, slim-medium build, 30-40 with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386347

**YOUNG** at heart, professional, N/S male, 50, fit, sporty, likes DTV, outdoors, seeks similar female, 44-54. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 365972

**KARL** 40, fun loving, caring, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398662

**MALE** 49, sensitive, caring, warm, body builder, seeks slim, attractive, genuine soul mate in the local area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368717

**DARREN** 42, likes pubs, clubs, drives, meals out, motorcross, seeks female, 28-35. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398127

**ATTRACTIVE** kind, young looking 45yr old male, slim, GSOH, seeks similar female for friendship and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392241

**GENUINE** good looking male, 38, seeking sexy, genuine female, 25-45 for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392233

**CHRIS** 53, GSOH, affectionate, loving, loyal, likes music, walks, cooking, seeking special lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391847

**REASONABLE** looking guy 48, tall, kind, considerate, GSOH, seeks lady for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398937

## GAY SINGLES

**MALE** 44, seeking male, 18-23 for fun relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391626

**BI** male, divorced, young, fit 50, own home/business, seeks male, 18-45 for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391849

**MA**



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## Five star Pitmen too good for Hayes

**Heath Hayes 1 Hednesford 5**  
HEDNESFORD made it two wins out of two in pre-season with a comfortable 5-1 success over Heath Hayes.

The Pitmen had to wait 31 minutes before breaking the deadlock despite controlling the early stages of the game.

The lively Elliott Durrell played in striker Aaron Rey who squared the ball to Sean O'Connor to fire home.

Seven minutes later it was 2-0 as John Disney burst forward and his cross was powerfully turned home by O'Connor.

It was almost 3-0 just before the break when Rey saw his 25-yard drive strike the crossbar.

Six minutes into the second period Heath Hayes got themselves back into the game when Dave Waple fired past Dan Crane.

Hednesford made it 3-1 in the 81st minute when substitute Neil Harvey headed home.

The Pitmen added a fourth courtesy of a penalty from Durrell and then made it 5-1 when Rudolf Okyere-Brenyah's cross deceived the home defence and Ronny Hoffmann nodded home from close range.

# Pelsall beat opponents and the weather

PELSALL gave their Staffs Clubs Championship title hopes a boost as the beat the weather and Swindon to close the gap on leaders Milford Hall.

Batting first, Pelsall were indebted to a solid contributions from Richard Marsh and Alex Jones in testing batting conditions.

Opener Marsh top-scored with 65 while Jones contributed 48 to help Pelsall post 217-8 from their 50 overs.

A devastating opening spell from seamer Iqbal Masood then checked Swindon's progress as he

knocked over three of their top four.

The elements then threatened to halt Pelsall's victory charge as rain forced the sides off.

But the weather improved and Masood (6-63) added three more victims to his tally while skipper Danny Pennell bagged a brace as Swindon were finally dismissed for 143.

The 24-point haul saw Pelsall make ground on Milford, who picked up 20 points from their victory over Springsdale.

"It was a pleasing all-round performance," said Pennell.

### Staffs Clubs Cricket

"I was pleased with our total because the track was a bit wet and the conditions were not that easy to bat in.

"But the lads at the top of the order did a good job.

"Masood then bowled really well. He bowled 15 overs on the spin and it was the best he has bowled all season.

"I was a bit worried when we went off for rain because it looked as if it was set in and that we might struggle to get back on.

"But thankfully we managed to get back out and we were able to take the last few wickets."

Pennell will be looking for his side to cash in on home advantage when they tackle Old Wulfrunians next, although he has urged his men to keep their concentration as they embark on the title run in.

"We slipped up a few weeks ago against Hammerwich when we were a bit too complacent," said Pennell.

"We can't afford to do that again. We have to maintain our concentration because there is still an awful lot of cricket to be played.

"But at the start of the season, if you had said that we would be 11 points off top place with 13 games gone, I would have taken that.

"We have a couple of tricky games coming up against Old Wulfs and Beacon and we can't afford any slip ups.

"It looks as if the title race is between Milford, Hawkins and ourselves, but Beacon could still have a say.

"They are 50-odd points off the top but they still have to play the top three sides.

"The weather will also have an affect."

## Driving lessons on track at top venue

GREAT BARR driving instructor Doug Crosthwaite is to put his skills to the test at the home of British motor racing.

Crosthwaite, an AA Driving School instructor, will be giving over-12s the chance to drive at the Silverstone track for three days from Friday, July 20.

Children from the age of 12, who are taller than 4'9", will get the opportunity to drive his Ford Fiesta tuition car, which is fitted with dual-controls, at the Silverstone Classic event.

Crosthwaite has been a driving instructor for nine years and teaches across Birmingham, Great Barr and Walsall. He said: "When I became a driving instructor I never dreamt I would get the chance to drive at Silverstone - it's a great opportunity and I'm really looking forward to it.

"Giving under-17s the chance to get behind the wheel can help give them a really good grounding in road safety and make them safer drivers when they are old enough for their provisional licence.

"It will also be fun for them and great to be able to say the first time they drove a car was at Silverstone."

## Dunkirk first up for Star

CONTINENTAL STAR will kick off their first campaign in the Midland Alliance with a home clash against Dunkirk.

Star, who play their home games at Rushall Olympic's Dales Lane base, make the step up in standard after securing the Midland Combination title last season and kick off on Saturday, August 4 (3pm).

Alliance rivals Causeway United will provide the opposition in the FA Cup with Star travelling to the War Memorial Ground, Stourbridge on Sunday, August 12 (3pm).

Star's pre-season schedule is as follows: Saturday July 21 - Sporting Khalsa (h - 3pm), Thursday July 26 - Rushall Olympic (h - 7.45pm), Wednesday, August 1 - Feckenham (h, Charity Cup - 7.45pm) Saturday, July 28 - Blackwood FC (a - 3pm, at Highgate United).

# New-look Olympic kick off pre-season in style

**A NEW LOOK** Rushall Olympic kicked off their pre-season campaign with victory against Evo-Stik League First Division South outfit Kidsgrove Athletic.

The Pics, lining up with seven new signings, claimed a solid 2-0 success with a goal in each half as they gained some revenge for their Staffordshire Senior Cup final defeat at the hands of 'Grove at Vale Park at the end of last season.

Rushall also featured four unfamiliar faces on the substitutes bench.

The hosts were first to threaten when as early as the fourth minute, Pics Player of the Year Chris Gemmell was forced to take the sting out of a pacy drive.

Three minutes later and the visitors responded when a good lay-off by Michael Clarke to ex-Kidsgrove favourite Dave Walker ended with his strike partner side footing just shy of the left hand post.

On 15 minutes the home custodian pulled off a superb save to deny a header from Lei Brown.

Olympic were back on the offensive on the half hour mark when a free-kick was delivered to perfection from the right channel by Martyn Naylor and new skipper Wayne Daniel rose highest to power in a downward header from 12 yards to give his side the lead.

Six minutes after taking the lead a centre from the left flank by Brown was met by Ramone Stephens who looped a header on to the roof of the net from within the periphery of the penalty area. Eight minutes prior to

### Rushall Olympic

the interval, the Pics custodian was alert to the danger to make a telling save as Athletic curled a useful looking free-kick from the left face of the box towards the top right corner.

Rushall rang the changes for the start of the second period by make six substitutions. However with barely five minutes on the watch they effectively sealed the result by doubling their advantage. As Naylor's pacy free-kick probed its way goalwards the Kidsgrove custodian spilled a catch low down and Andre Landell reacted quickest to rifle the loose ball into the net from close range.

With ten minutes remaining a good piece of skill from substitute Ahmed Obeng saw last season's top scorer carve his way into the box, only to see the Grove keeper make a telling save at close quarters.

In Olympic's very next move Brown curled a free-kick from the right face of the penalty area just over the target.

## Pakistan hit the ground running at Cannock



Limbering up for the Games - the Pakistan hockey squad (above) were continuing their Olympic preparations this week at Cannock Hockey Club. The team, who are ranked eighth in the world, are training at Chase Park ahead of the Games - which start next week. Pakistan have been drawn in the same group as Team GB, who include Cannock goalkeeper James Fair, at London 2012.

### Rushall fixtures

Aug 18	Whitby Town	A
Aug 21	Ilkeston FC	H
Aug 25	Kendal Town FA Cup Prelim	H
Aug 27	Blackpool Town	A
Sep 1	North Ferriby United	H
Sep 3	Ilkeston FC	A
Sep 8	Ilkeston FC	A
Sep 15	Frickley Athletic FA Trophy	H
Sep 18	Eastwood Town	A
Sep 22	FA Cup 20	A
Sep 27	FA Trophy 1Q	A
Oct 6	Marine FA Cup 3Q	A
Oct 9	Stafford Rangers	H
Oct 13	Chorley	H
Oct 16	Stockbridge PS	A
Oct 20	Blyth Spartans FA Cup 4Q	A
Oct 23	Nantwich Town	H
Oct 27	FA Trophy 2Q	A
Oct 30	Witton Albion	H
Nov 3	AFC Fylde FA Cup 1	A
Nov 10	Buxton FA Trophy 3Q	A
Nov 17	FC United of Manchester	A
Nov 24	Workshop Town FA Trophy 1	A
Dec 1	Ashton United FA Cup 2	A
Dec 8	North Ferriby United	A
Dec 15	Whitby Town FA Trophy 2	H
Dec 22	Kendal Town	A
Dec 26	Macclesfield Town	A
Dec 29	Grantham Town	H
Jan 1	Hednesford Town	A
Jan 5	Frickley Athletic FA Cup 3	A
Jan 12	Eastwood Town FA Trophy 3	H
Jan 19	Stafford Rangers	A
Jan 26	Marine FA Cup 4 FA Trophy 4	H
Feb 2	Stockbridge PS	H
Feb 9	Chorley	A
Feb 16	Blyth Spartans FA Cup 5 FA Trophy Semi-Final (1)	H
Feb 23	League Cup FA Trophy Semi-Final (2)	H
Mar 2	Nantwich Town	A
Mar 9	Workshop Town FA Cup 6	H
Mar 16	Ashton United	A
Mar 23	League Cup Semi-Finals	A
Mar 24	FA Trophy Final	A
Mar 25	Grantham Town	A
Apr 1	Hednesford Town	A
Apr 6	Witton Albion	A
Apr 13	AFC Fylde FA Cup Semi-Final	A
Apr 20	Buxton	A
Apr 27	FC United of Manchester	H
May 11	FA Cup Final	A

# WALSALL

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Hockey stars  
warm up for Games  
**Page 51**



**Pics hit form**  
Rushall kick-off  
pre-season in style  
**Page 51**

e-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

## Pics land opening day trip to Whitby

RUSHALL OLYMPIC will be looking to avoid of their ill-tempered clash at Whitby when the two sides are reunited on the opening day of the new season.

Neil Kitching's men will be back on the seaside on Saturday August 18 – six months after a fiery encounter in last season's corresponding fixture.

The Pics led 1-0 and were heading for three Evo-Stik Northern Premier League points in February before the red mist descended on them and cost them the game.

They finished with eight men after having James Skedgel, Christian Dacres and Gary Fitzpatrick sent off and lost 2-1 to two goals in the last 18 minutes.

The big Boxing Day matches see Rushall head across to Derbyshire to tackle Matlock, who have former Wolves midfielder Mark Atkins in charge, on Boxing Day.

The Pics round off their season with a home clash against pre-season promotion favourites FC United of Manchester on Saturday, April 27.

Fixtures – Page 51

## Youngsters can get a hit for free

FREE weekly tennis sessions for children have been set up in Cheslyn Hay.

The scheme, at the leisure centre, follows a successful pilot in June when more than 40 people benefited from organised coaching.

The free weekly sessions, for children in school years three, four, five and six start on Monday (5.30-6.30pm).

The aim is to develop skills on half and three-quarter sized courts, led by Lawn Tennis Association qualified coaches, before moving up to full-size courts.

Youngsters aged 12 and over can attend from 6.30-8pm to take part in match scenarios and sharpen their skills.

The coaches are Chris and James Perrin, the reigning Staffordshire county senior men's doubles champions.

All equipment is provided. More details: email cheslynhaytennis@live.com or text/phone 07866 83182.

Anyone interested but unable to make the specific dates should still get in touch as other sessions may be arranged in the future.

# Villa closing in on Dutch ace Vlaar

by Martin Swain

VILLA are leading the race to sign Dutch international defender Ron Vlaar.

Vlaar jetted to Birmingham at the weekend to meet manager Paul Lambert and was given a Villa Park tour. He has turned down the chance to extend his Feyenoord contract and told the club he favours a move to Villa.

Although a deal has yet to be agreed, the 27-year-old defender's club Feyenoord have confirmed that Vlaar wants to take up the opportunity on the table from Villa.

Feyenoord's Director of Football Martin Van Geel admitted yesterday: "Ron visited

Birmingham and wants to continue his career at Aston Villa."

Van Geel confirmed that Vlaar does have a buy-out clause in his contract – but it is one which Dutch sources were yesterday claiming Villa are ready to meet.

"We met with him last week to discuss a contract extension, but that was not an option," said Van Geel. "It's true that he has a buy-out clause. I won't reveal how much exactly we're talking about, but we're obviously talking about millions here."

The player is valued around the £5m mark and the growing prospect of his joining Villa comes at a time of exciting developments for fans already warmly embracing the Lambert era.

Although the manager has suggested his focus will now switch to Villa's training as they embark on their three-game tour in Philadelphia, further speculation suggested Lambert was eyeing a move for Newcastle full-back Danny Simpson joining.

Lambert has already bagged Brett Holman and Karim El Ahmadi Matthew Lowton and re-signed keeper Brad Guzan.

Guzan left Villa in the close season frustrated by his lack of first team opportunity, but has been persuaded to change his mind and has signed a new three-year deal.

Now Lambert expects the American to put No.1 Shay Given under pressure.

"I've watched Brad and some of his games when he was in the team last year and he was excellent," said the Villa boss.

"I know he's always had that stigma of being the No.2 here. But when you come back at the start of the season nobody knows what's going to happen and it depends on whoever does well."

## Heartache as Staffs are beaten

WALSALL'S Paul Byrne suffered heartache as Staffordshire missed out on a place in the final of the Minor Counties Knockout.

Byrne ended up on the losing side as Staffs went down by just two runs in a dramatic semi-final clash with Wiltshire.

Chasing a target of 281, Staffs looked dead and buried when they slumped to 72-5. But skipper Paul Goodwin and 20-year-old Ben McGuire teamed up to drag Staffs back into the contest.

The duo posted a Minor Counties one-day record partnership of 159 for the sixth wicket to leave Staffs needing 50 to win with four wickets in hand as the match entered its final 10 overs.

But McGuire fell for a superb 62-ball century before Goodwin (66) fell with six runs required off the last over.

Last pair Imran Arif and Craig Barker took singles from the first three balls before Barker was bowled off the fifth ball.

## Baggies cut ticket prices

ALBION have cut matchday admission prices for next season with 11 of their Premier League games costing £25 for adults.

The Baggies have reduced prices by an average of around five per cent by scrapping two of their match categories.

Admission to the 'category B' matches against Everton, Reading, QPR, Southampton, Stoke, West Ham, Norwich, Fulham, Sunderland, Swansea and Wigan will cost £25.

Adults will pay £39 to see the 'category A' home games against Liverpool, Manchester City, Chelsea, Villa, Tottenham, Arsenal, Newcastle and Manchester United.

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# HOLDEN KEEN TO MAKE AN IMPACT

DEAN HOLDEN has vowed to lead by example after joining Dean Smith's Walsall revolution.

The defender signed a one-year deal at the Saddlers after being impressed with boss Smith's vision for the club.

Holden joins Florent Cuvelier – who has returned on a six-month loan from Stoke – and ex-Wolves striker Ashley Hemmings as Smith's rebuilding job continues.

And the experienced former Shrewsbury man wants to help the Saddlers progress in League One.

"I pride myself on my attitude and I will be working as hard as I can in order to make me a better player," he said. "Even though I am 32 and have almost 400 senior appearances to my name, I am learning all of the time and I hope to continue that under the gaffer and Richard O'Kelly."

### Buzzing

"The training ground was a big pull for me. It's rare to see facilities like these outside of the top two divisions."

"I'm buzzing to have signed this deal and now I can't wait to get down to work. There are a lot of young lads here and hopefully I can play my part in helping them develop."

"I will bring experience, know-how and desire to the team. I'm a winner and my initial thoughts are that the attitude and spirit in the camp here is excellent."

Holden started his career at Bolton before spells at Oldham, Peterborough, Shrewsbury, Chesterfield and Rochdale and was released at Spotland in the summer.

He added: "I don't have an agent so I came along and spent an hour talking with

by Nick Mashiter

the management team. They spoke very well and really sold the club to me."

"I feel it was important for them to see me in person and for me to be able to get across what kind of character I am."

Smith is delighted to have landed Holden.

"He's an experienced lad who knows the game," said Smith. "He's what I would describe as a robust performer who knows how to defend and will bring plenty of knowledge and commitment to the squad."

"I see him as a central defender, but he has played a lot of his football at right-back, so he gives us options."

The signings are expected to continue with Walsall chief executive Stefan Gamble insisting the club are hunting "five or six" new signings.

"The manager wants another five or six more signings before the first competitive game of the season," he said.

"Everything generated from football will go back into the manager's budget and it is up to him what he does with it. In his office the manager has a whiteboard with his formation, the gaps and a list of names."

## Duo check in to boost the Saddlers



Welcome to Walsall – new signing Dean Holden (left) and the returning Florent Cuvelier are all smiles as they check in with the Saddlers. The experienced Holden will add some nous to Walsall's back line after penning a one-year deal while Cuvelier is no stranger to Saddlers fans. The Belgian has agreed another loan switch from Premier Division Stoke after impressing during a five-month, 18-game temporary stay at The Banks's last season. During that time he scored four goals and became a firm hit with the Walsall supporters.

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## Local teachers for Local schools from a local teaching agency



Since 2005 Lichfield has been home to ABC Teachers, a supply teaching agency that supplies teachers and teaching staff to local schools, nurseries, Pupil Referral Units and SEN Services across Staffordshire and the West Midlands. 'Nearly all schools will rely on the support of a supply teacher to varying degrees' states Jason Berry who looks after secondary schools in Staffordshire. 'Most local schools had been forced to rely on agencies based in Birmingham or even further afield with little or no knowledge of the local areas'.

'Our aim is simple; we want to work with all of the local supply teachers and all of the local schools. Placing local teachers in local schools means that teachers can get to schools quicker in an emergency. We have found that they also tend to 'fit in' better because of their knowledge of the catchment area'.

ABC Teachers are certainly heading in the right direction. We have over 1000 registered teachers within 15 miles of our Lichfield office and a client base that includes almost all of the Staffordshire secondary schools south of Stafford. I think you would have to agree that ABC Teachers is well and truly on the Staffordshire map.

## Agency Workers Regulations 2010



October 2011 saw the introduction of the Agency Workers Regulations. The new regulations mean that anyone teaching for more than 12 weeks in a school will be entitled to equal treatment. This is in terms of the same basic working and employment conditions as they would have been entitled to, had they been recruited directly by the school to do the same job.

For teachers, teaching assistants and cover supervisors working for ABC Teachers, this means that after 12 weeks of working in the same school, doing the same job, they will be entitled to be paid to scale. This is a huge benefit to our staff that not all agencies are offering.

Jo Betteley, Manager for ABC Teachers states 'We know that our teachers, teaching assistants and cover supervisors work hard for us and it only stands to reason that they should be paid correctly for the work they are doing.'

ABC Teachers have wholeheartedly embraced the new regulations and we are doing everything possible to ensure that as many people as possible can benefit from them'.

## The Pensions Act 2012



The Pensions Act 2012 will come into effect during the next academic year and all qualifying teachers, teaching assistants and cover supervisors working for ABC Teachers will automatically be enrolled into a scheme.

The scheme will include contributions from both staff and ABC Teachers and is a government initiative to encourage everyone to start saving for their retirement. Enrolment into the scheme is mandatory, however anyone who does not wish to contribute to a pension will be given the option to opt out. Luke Jackson, Director of ABC Teachers commented 'This is a fantastic opportunity for all

members of the teaching profession to save into a pension scheme, regardless of whether they are working for an agency or for a local authority.

We understand that staff working for ABC Teachers will be saving into their pensions by next March and we feel that this is a real benefit for supply teachers'.

## Newly Qualified Teachers receive a helping hand from ABC Teachers



Each year scores of Newly Qualified Teachers fail to land their dream first teaching post. Some have been unlucky in interviews, while for others the right opportunity just didn't arise.

As each year goes by ABC Teachers registers more and more NQTs as our success rate and reputation for assisting them in securing a suitable post sky rockets. 'ABC Teachers have had a strong relationship with NQTs since we started in 2005 having secured them posts on a supply, contract and permanent basis in schools, therefore, allowing them to work towards their NQT induction' states Primary Consultant Rachael Tabberer. Even in cases where NQTs do not receive work towards their induction; the experience of working on supply can be invaluable.

'The onus is always on the school to provide the NQT support so it is not something we can guarantee. However, working as a supply teacher keeps individuals working within schools, allowing them to view different establishments and keep building on their teaching knowledge. Such experiences will carry them in good stead when applying for future jobs.'

**TEL: 01543-410-500** **www.abc-teachers.co.uk**



# Tips for Supply Teachers

By [www.abc-teachers.co.uk](http://www.abc-teachers.co.uk)

## Finding an agency: Choosing the right Teaching Agency for you

1. Recommendations are probably the best place to start. Many teaching agencies will promise you the world but receiving a recommendation from an experienced *supply teacher* is a good way of ascertaining the best agency to work for
2. Call a number of agencies and get a feel for the *education consultant* that covers your specialism and region. This is the person who will be responsible for securing you work, so if you don't think they sound knowledgeable, professional and personable then it's safe to assume that the schools will also be wary about trusting the consultant to recruit on behalf of them
3. Ask the agency which schools they work with regularly. This will enable you to see whether the *teaching agency* is suitable for your requirements
4. Be wary of choosing a teaching agency on its size. You will probably be kept busier by an agency with not enough *teachers* than one with too many
5. Don't necessarily go with the agency that offers you the most money. A *supply teacher's pay* will directly affect the amount charged to schools. More and more schools are choosing to pay less for supply teachers and using *cover supervisors* where possible to keep costs down. In short you may find the agencies paying the most will not necessarily be able to secure the most work. We at ABC Teachers believe we have carefully managed professional rates of pay and competitive charge rates giving you the best of both worlds



## Preparing for your day

6. If you are given a booking in advance try to *get to the school in plenty of time*. Schools will panic if you are running late and it does not create a good first impression. Equally, as a supply teacher you will benefit from having enough time to settle yourself, ask any questions in regards to your day and familiarise yourself with the discipline procedure before facing your first class. 8.15 is the optimum time to arrive at an assignment, although for last minute bookings this won't always be possible
7. Try to have a few tricks and ideas up your sleeve in order to keep the class occupied should there be no work set. This will give you valuable time to find out *what the class should really be doing* whilst retaining their concentration
8. Your appearance matters. *Dress professionally for supply teaching work*. This will encourage respect from pupils and help make a good first impression with the school
9. Plan your *route to the school in advance*. If you are going to be late contact your teaching agency so that they can inform the school
10. Keep items you will need each day ready in advance. This means when you are given last minute assignments you are able to leave quickly and get to the school earlier. Things you have ready should include:
  - Clean and ironed clothes
  - Your recent *CRB Disclosure and some photographic ID* (passport or driving licence)
  - Pens and pencils should your pupils have forgotten theirs
  - Some back up schemes of work (as mentioned above)
  - An A-to-Z or, if you are part of the technical age, a Sat Nav
  - Consider taking a bag with sports kit in case you are asked to cover PE



## Maximising your work

11. If you have not received a booking prior to the morning, *call your teaching agency* first thing and inform them you are up, ready and available for work. In the morning your consultant will contact people they know can get to the school with minimum fuss
12. If you go to a school you like, *let the school know you are available for other assignments* in the future. You may find that you are requested by name in the future
13. *Be flexible*. The more flexible you are the more opportunities you are likely to receive
14. While you never use your mobile phone in class or in front of your pupils, do check your phone during breaks for texts and voice mails from your *teaching agency* which may have details of further assignments
15. Be speedy in the morning. If you can be seen as a person who can leave and *get to schools* with minimal fuss the agency will automatically see you as an obvious choice for bookings



## Classroom management strategies

16. One of the main issues with supply teachers is a lack of enthusiasm for the role. *Stay enthusiastic for the position*. Keep working and never give up on the class and let it rule you. Utilize do's and don'ts below and things will become easier
17. *Avoid shouting if possible*. It can give the impression that you have lost control, making it difficult to regain it
18. At the start of lesson *set clear expectations of the class*
19. Do not be afraid to *accept support*. Even the best teachers will have days when support can help
20. Take the time to get to *know the names of the pupils in the class*
21. If you are at the school for a longer period devise a seating plan to keep disruptive groups forming
22. *Know the names of each individual head of year* and then use them when addressing behaviour issues
23. Use *positive praise of good behaviour* to avoid allowing negative behaviour to gain all the attention
24. *Do not highlight you are in the school on a short-term basis*. This gives pupils the impression that they do not need to be concerned about you in the long term
25. By following the regular pattern of discipline, pupils know where they stand so try to *know the school behaviour management system*
26. Ask for the school's behaviour management policy at the start of the day



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